

Police investigating report settler killed Palestinian

By JOEL GREENBERG / Jerusalem Post Reporter

A Palestinian who was shot and killed yesterday in Kaddum, near Nablus, was slain by a settler from Kedumim, villagers told reporters who visited the site. The villagers said they recognized the assailant as a resident of the neighbouring settlement.

Military sources said no troops had been in the town when the incident occurred, and that the shooting was being investigated by the police, who handle civilian cases.

The villagers gave the reporters the following account:

The settler, aged about 50, arrived at Kaddum in a blue Volkswagen van between 10:00 and 10:30 with a companion, who carried a pistol. A keffiyeh was draped on the dashboard.

Abdel Basit Abdullah, 26, stood with a group of young men who turned back cars and buses from the village taking labourers to Israel. When he waved back the settler's van, the settler got out with a machine gun, and shot Abdullah twice in the head. A second villager was wounded in the leg and treated by a local doctor.

According to the villagers, Abdullah was put in a vehicle, which was later stopped by two officers in an IDF jeep. After ordering out the three men accompany-

ing Abdullah and frisking them against a wall, the soldiers allowed the driver to take the wounded man to the hospital. The two other men were detained and questioned until it was learned that Abdullah had died. They were freed and told to keep silent about the incident.

Military sources confirmed that the wounded man was discovered when an IDF force stopped a taxi for inspection. Protesters in Kaddum later burned tires, set up roadblocks, and raised Palestinian flags on mosques, according to the reporters.

In Kalkiya, protesters defied a curfew and took to the streets last night following reports broadcast over mosque loudspeakers that settlers were in the town. Sources in Kalkiya said they had heard gunfire, and that there were at least 10 persons wounded, though this could not be confirmed by the IDF. Military sources said troops were restoring order, and that no settlers were in the town.

Scattered incidents were reported in other West Bank areas, and towns and villages were paralyzed by a general strike which left streets deserted. The strike marked two months since the start of the Palestinian protests in the territories.

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A Palestinian girl is ordered by soldiers to remove barricade during rioting yesterday in the Nuseirat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. (APF)

EC 'deeply deplores' Israel's tactics as 'illegal and repressive'

By YOSSI LEMPKOWITZ
MENACHEM SHALEV
and Agencies

BONN — The 12 nations of the European Economic Community yesterday "deplored" Israeli tactics in the territories as "illegal and repressive." At the same time, the EC foreign ministers called for restraint by all parties in the territories.

The European nations "deeply deplore the repressive measures taken by Israel, which are in violation of international law and human rights," the ministers said in a joint statement.

Senior officials in Jerusalem last night found some "positive points" in the statement, although they said that it would not contribute to the peace process. "The verbiage is more moderate than what some expected," a senior official said, "but it is harsh enough."

The officials noted the use of the word "deplore" — rather than the harsher "condemn" — in the reference to Israel's handling of the disturbances in the territories. This semantic change is thought to be the result of concerted efforts during the

past few days by Israeli diplomats in all 12 EC capitals and of subsequent Dutch and West German lobbying.

The Netherlands and West Germany reportedly opposed Greek and British demands for tougher stand against Israel.

Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van de Broek asserted that any strong condemnation of Israel at this moment "would be counter-productive" and would not "encourage the Israeli government to move into some kind of peace process," diplomatic sources said.

"It would be difficult for Europe to help the peace process if we don't have the confidence of all the parties involved," the Dutch minister reportedly said.

Jerusalem officials welcomed the fact that the Europeans had not decided on any independent and active diplomatic initiative which would have interfered with current American efforts in the Middle East.

The Foreign Ministry's political director-general, Yossi Beilin, who returned yesterday from a 48-hour visit to England and Belgium, had told European officials that a harsh condemnation would detract from

the EC's credibility in Israel and would hamper the U.S. initiative.

Beilin said last night that the Europeans had not sounded "too enthusiastic" about the U.S. plan and did not have high hopes that it would succeed.

Some reports reaching Jerusalem have intimated that the Europeans were under the "mistaken impression" that Foreign Minister Peres was opposed to the American initiative.

Commenting after the publication of the statement, Britain's foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, said: "These words are used without enthusiasm, but are seen as a necessary comment on the matter. It gives no one any pleasure, particularly friends of Israel such as the United Kingdom." He said the communiqué was meant as a plea for peace.

"To both sides we are saying try and refrain from violence," Howe said.

Responding to a reporter's question, Howe said the EC ministers did not discuss possible tougher measures that could be taken against Israel.

Howe praised U.S. envoy Richard Murphy's Middle East peace initiative as a welcome sign of America's renewed interest. "No one can say at this point how far he will be able to move things along, but we welcome the American re-engagement in the peace process," Howe said.

Autopsy: boy's death not due to beating

By ELAINE RUTH FLETCHER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

An autopsy has revealed that a 15-year-old Deir al-Balah boy, Rami al-Aklouk died on Sunday of a brain hemorrhage caused by an illness, and not of a beating as had been alleged by his family, the army said yesterday.

The IDF statement was made even as new claims were raised that a 17-year-old youth from Bourj camp was beaten to death Sunday by troops. The report sparked riots in Bourj camp and nearby Nuseirat camp. Four people, including a 12-year-old girl and a 15-year-old boy, were injured by army gunfire during the disturbances, the IDF said.

The army denied the report of the beating death in Bourj, saying that the body of the youth, Iyad Akal, was spirited out of Gaza's Shifa Hospital just a half hour after he died, leaving IDF investigators unable to verify exactly what caused his death.

The IDF also said that troops were not inside the camp Sunday afternoon, when Akal's family and top UN officials claimed the boy was beaten.

Sena Akal, the dead youth's sister, told The Jerusalem Post that some 20 to 30 Givati Brigade soldiers broke into the family's home as Iyad and a cousin, Khaled, were drinking tea at about 3:30 p.m. Sunday afternoon.

She said that the youths were beaten by soldiers, handcuffed and taken to the edges of the camp. Khaled's arm and leg were broken before he was dropped in an orange grove. Iyad Akal was left lying near a cemetery, where camp residents found him and took him to Shifa Hospital.

An Associated Press reporter interviewed Khaled Akal, the cousin of the dead youth. According to the AP report, Khaled was hospitalized. (Continued on Back Page)

Report by historians concludes:

'Waldheim knew about Nazi atrocities but did nothing to stop them'

By ILONA HENRY
Jerusalem Post Correspondent
and Agencies

VIENNA — Austrian President Kurt Waldheim knew about Nazi atrocities but did nothing to stop them, the investigation by the International Committee of Historians said last night. An Israeli member of the committee said their findings could provide grounds for legal action.

The report, commissioned by the Austrian government to examine Waldheim's war record, severely criticized the former UN secretary general, saying not a single case had been discovered in which he had protested against such acts.

"On the contrary, [Waldheim] repeatedly went along with unlawful acts and thereby made it easier for

them to be carried out," said the investigators, according to the Austrian Press Agency (APA).

Waldheim was, said the commission, not a simple office clerk. "His insight into the matters was comprehensive. There was no evidence found where Waldheim protested against injustice which he could, without any doubt, easily recognize."

The commission was not prepared to accept Waldheim's claim that it was necessary for him to fulfill his duty "because even in war, military duties do not have a general validity."

Waldheim had hoped the report would end accusations linking him to Nazi war crimes, but last night it appeared to have had the opposite effect. "In the report, there are no

indications of personal culpable actions on the part of the federal president," Chancellor Franz Vranitzky told a news conference after receiving the report. "But there were very many critical observations made about [his] wartime role."

Vranitzky declined to say whether the report would have political consequences for Waldheim.

The chairman of the commission of historians, Hans Rudolf Kurz, said in an interview broadcast by Austrian television, "He [Waldheim] knew a lot." Kurz spoke before discussing the report for 45 minutes with Waldheim.

The Austrian Press Agency quoted the report as saying: "In general a certain guilt could arise just from knowing about the viola-

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 7)

Hospital strike into 10th day as gov't delays court injunction

By JUDY SIEGEL
and AVI TEMKIN
Jerusalem Post Reporters

The strike by 10,000 state hospital workers continues into its 10th day today, but Finance Minister Moshe Nissim will apparently wait another day before asking the government to apply for a court injunction to force the strikers back to work.

Nissim told Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar, in a two-hour meeting last night at the Treasury, that he was determined to bring about an end to the strike. Nissim said that, if necessary, he would use court orders.

The Treasury has made certain offers to the hospital clerks and maintenance workers but it has refused to disclose them, out of concern that other sectors in the health system will demand the same terms. Histadrut wage chief Haim Haberfeld will bring these proposals to the works committee today.

After appearing in the Knesset yesterday, the works committee did not even remain in Jerusalem to hear the outcome of the meeting, predicting that "nothing substan-

tial" would be offered and that the strike would continue. (See story page 4).

The Knesset Labour and Social Affairs Committee yesterday failed to produce any softening of positions. The Treasury's wage chief, Ya'acov Danon, told the committee that the Treasury would not negotiate with striking workers, while representatives of the 10,000 striking clerks and maintenance workers said they would not return to work without solid promises from the Treasury.

Sunday's warning by state hospital administrators, that unless the strike ended they would refuse to admit new patients, has put added pressure on the government. Health Ministry Director-General Yoram Lass proposed that the Treasury officials and works committee agree to sit together non-stop until an agreement is reached. The Finance Ministry is unwilling, however, to agree to demands for equalization of wages with the strikers' counterparts in Kupat Holim Clalit hospitals.

The hospital administrators, who are due to meet this morning with

Health Minister Shoshana Arbeli-Almoshino, claim that they will provide only "first-aid" to patients who arrive at their emergency wards this afternoon, and send those not critically ill to Kupat Holim hospitals for treatment.

The directors of Rambam Hospital in Haifa insisted yesterday that they were unable to cope with the pressures of the current situation: filthy wards, no clean laundry, stinking toilets and a shortage of medical equipment.

The Am Yafe-Am Ahad organization, together with the Health Ministry, yesterday set up a coordinating centre for volunteers who wish to help in the 32 state hospitals, especially the geriatric and psychiatric institutions which are the hardest hit.

Volunteers can call (03)484555 or (03)482217 from morning until late evening.

But a spokesman for the strikers insisted that volunteers would not be allowed to enter the hospitals.

Arbeli-Almoshino, visiting a Beersheba geriatric hospital, (Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)

Views differ on what to expect from new American peace scheme

By MENACHEM SHALEV
Post Diplomatic Correspondent

The new American peace initiative contains a "much stronger" international conference element than previously publicized, Foreign Ministry sources said last night.

But, the sources added, the proposed agenda for the conference will initially focus on an interim solution, and this might be more palatable to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy is scheduled to arrive here this evening, after holding talks in Syria and Saudi Arabia. Murphy is scheduled to meet tonight with Shamir, and with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres tomorrow morning.

The Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry appeared last night to have totally different expecta-

tations of — and information on — the new American initiative.

While the Prime Minister's Office said that "the Americans have yet to consolidate a programme," the Foreign Ministry said that Murphy was carrying a detailed proposal, providing for an international conference, talks on an interim solution and talks on the final status of the territories.

The Prime Minister hopes to "hear from Murphy something about the American ideas," while sources close to Peres said that "we have been thoroughly informed about the details of the plan."

And while sources close to Shamir said that the Murphy's visit should not arouse too many expectations, Foreign Ministry sources said that they were convinced of the "seriousness" of U.S. intentions and were "encouraged" by Egyptian and Jor-

danian reactions to the plan. They added that Peres has recently said in private that he would not tolerate further attempts to impede the peace process.

The two bureaus, however, were united in categorically dismissing a Kuwaiti newspaper report yesterday which spelled out a five-point American initiative.

The Kuwaiti Al-Anba said that the plan carried by Murphy, which is aimed at "involving Jordan in bilateral relations with Israel," consists of an Israeli commitment to conduct municipal elections in the occupied territories before summer; the formation of committees representing Jordan, Egypt and Israel to supervise the elections; withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Arab population centres before elections; an April tour of the Middle East by

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)

Arbitrators to tour Taba area

Post Diplomatic Correspondent

The five international arbitrators dealing with the Taba controversy between Israel and Egypt will conduct a tour of the disputed area next Wednesday, officials in Jerusalem said yesterday.

The five jurists — from Sweden, Switzerland, France, Egypt and Israel — will hold talks in Cairo before their visit to Taba, and in Jerusalem after it.

Egypt and Israel agreed last week to extend the period for conciliation

efforts until March 1. Sources in Jerusalem said last night that the extension is a sign of the countries' willingness to achieve a compromise solution, but added that "the two sides remain far apart."

Israel and Egypt last week completed submission of the third and final round of written arguments, called "rejoinders." Oral arguments which will launch the central arbitration process are scheduled to be submitted to the arbitration panel on March 14.

Israel has decided not to let the boat enter Israeli territorial waters, informed sources in Jerusalem said last night.

Wide-ranging discussions on the (Continued on Page Nine)

Mass demonstration planned for Haifa Saturday

Arabs, Jewish activists to welcome PLO ship

By DAVID RUDGE
Jerusalem Post Reporter

SHFARAM — Israeli Arabs and Jewish peace activists intend to hire a ship to greet the boatload of Palestinian deportees at sea if their ship is not allowed into Haifa port.

The decision was made at a meeting here yesterday of Arab leaders. They also decided to stage a mass demonstration in Haifa on Saturday to press for permission for the deportees to return to their homes and to protest against the deaths and beatings in the territories.

Ibrahim Nimr Hussein, chairman of the national committee of Arab local councils and mayor of Shfaram, warned that force would not restore peace and quiet in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

"From what we have been hearing from residents of the territories, they are not frightened of the bullets or the batons," said Hussein.

"They are not sorry about those who have died and they are prepared to die themselves," he said.

Hussein said this was the message that residents of the territories gave Israeli Arabs who brought them food. "They said...that if they did not have food they would be like snakes and eat sand," he recounted.

"They will not give up the fight now because they feel they have nothing to lose. Every death or beating only pours more fuel on the fire. In my opinion, from what we have heard, the unrest will continue until a political solution is reached. That will only come about if the government will agree to an international peace conference with the participation of the PLO. That's what they want," added Hussein.

The meeting yesterday was attended by Arab council chairmen, three of the five Arab MKs, Arab

Histadrut members, religious leaders, other leading Arab figures and members of a Jewish-Arab peace group, "Red Line against the Occupation."

An Arab businessman from the Triangle, Hasni Unis, promised to contribute funds for renting a suitable ship in which to greet the deportees. Yesterday's meeting also supported another initiative by Red Line members Menashe Ben-Meir of Kibbutz Kabri and Dov Yermiya of Nahariya to stage a "Peace March" from the Galilee to Jerusalem next month.

The Arab leaders said they hoped Peace Now would join to the proposed mass demonstration in Haifa on Saturday to make it one of the biggest ever seen in the country.

For the time being, they rejected calls for another general strike. Ra-

kah MK Tawfik Toubi advised caution, saying "We should be careful not to embarrass by irresponsible acts those Jews who want peace."

His words were echoed by Moslem Brotherhood leader Abdallah Nimr Darwish of Kfar Kassem in the Triangle. "We need to show discipline and not cause problems for our

Jewish friends," he said.

The meeting decided to continue the collection of money and food for residents of the territories and donate blood, if necessary.

Nevertheless, the participants warned that a general strike had not been ruled out completely, if the deaths and beatings continued.

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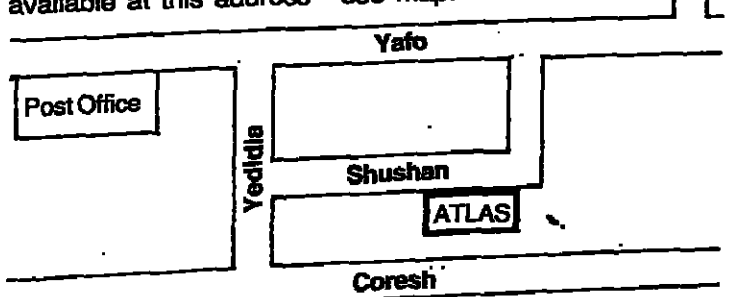
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	MIN.	MAX.	
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BIRMINGHAM	17 24	7 48	Cloudy
BURKINABE	17 22	9 28	Cloudy
CHICAGO	-14 7	-3 27	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	2 28	4 38	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	1 24	8 48	Cloudy
GENEVA	9 22	7 48	Cloudy
HELSINKI	1 24	2 38	Cloudy
HONG KONG	14 27	15 28	Cloudy
JERUSALEM	18 22	23 27	Cloudy
LONDON	7 28	8 48	Cloudy
MADRID	2 28	9 48	Cloudy
MONTREAL	-18 12	-10 14	Cloudy
NEW YORK	-13 12	14 28	Cloudy
OSLO	-7 12	2 38	Cloudy
PARIS	7 28	8 48	Cloudy
RIO DE JANEIRO	8 21	8 48	Cloudy
SAO PAULO	19 28	23 28	Cloudy
STOCKHOLM	9 22	2 38	Cloudy
TOKYO	-1 27	15 28	Cloudy
TORONTO	-13 12	2 38	Cloudy
ZURICH	2 28	7 48	Cloudy

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Clear to partly cloudy.

	Yesterday's	Yesterday's	Today's
	Humidity	Min-Max	Max
Jerusalem	58	6-11	13
Golan	53	6-12	14
Nahariya	56	7-17	17
Safed	62	3-9	11
Haifa Port	61	11-16	17
Tiberias	52	8-18	19
Nazareth	55	6-15	17
Afula	53	7-17	18
Shomron	54	2-14	15
Tel Aviv	57	11-17	18
B-G Airport	44	8-16	17
Jericho	51	10-20	21
Geza	60	12-17	18
Beersheba	54	6-16	18
Eilat	36	12-21	22

Egged may post guards in areas

By JONATHAN KARP
For The Jerusalem Post
HOLON — Egged will consider posting security guards on buses travelling through the occupied territories if attacks on the buses continue, the chairman of the cooperative told The Jerusalem Post this week.

Shlomo Levine said that about 150 Egged buses have been damaged by stones and petrol bombs since the disturbances began two months ago, and an increasing number of drivers have complained that they do not feel safe carrying passengers on certain routes.

"If until now we have not had to add security officers, it's because we have been able to take care of (security) ourselves," Levine said. "But I think that if we reach the point (of posting guards) we shall have the help of the security forces."

Egged spokesman Gideon Talmon said that 10 of the buses attacked were completely destroyed. He estimated the overall cost to the cooperative at about \$1 million.

Prime Minister Shamir, who this week visited Egged's service centre in the Azur industrial area here, said that it was job of the army and the security forces to secure the roads in the territories.

Neil Kinnock here next week

Post Diplomatic Correspondent
The leader of the British opposition, Neil Kinnock, is scheduled to pay an official visit to Israel next week, officials in Jerusalem said yesterday.

Kinnock, whose visit here will be sponsored by both the Foreign Ministry and the Labour Party, will come to Israel next Wednesday from Jordan, crossing the Allenby Bridge.

Announcing the plan in London last week, a British Labour Party spokesman said Kinnock would be visiting "the occupied territories and" Israel.

British visitors have traditionally differentiated between their tours of the "occupied territories" and Israel. But officials in Jerusalem said last night that the way the technical arrangements are being handled in Kinnock's case suggests that the "differentiation" is not as "sharp" as it was for the controversial visit last month of British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, David Mellor.

HOME NEWS

Security forces mass in village outside Jerusalem to quell expected rioting

By ANDY COURT
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Police and Border Police last night entered the village of Jebel Mukaber, near Jerusalem's East Talpote neighbourhood, reportedly to stop rioting timed to mark two months since the start of the Palestinian uprising.

The Syrian-based radio station run by Ahmed Jibril's organization had called upon Palestinians, including those in the Jerusalem area, to step up rioting last night and today.

Flares lit up the sky over Jebel Mukaber last night as a large contingent of police and Border Police gathered near Meir Nakar Street in East Talpote, the spot where about 200 Arab youths had marched with Palestinian flags and thrown stones at Jewish homes on Sunday.

A group of police then entered the village to make arrests.

Arab youths had stoned the number 8 bus which serves East Talpote, as well as a house in the Jewish neighbourhood, according to Jerusalem police spokesman Rafi Levy.

Disturbances also broke out in other areas last night. The road leading up the Mount of Olives to

A-Tur was covered with stones thrown by Arab youths who were later dispersed by police.

Ten people were arrested in the Old City, where a number of tyres were prepared for burning, Levy said. A petrol bomb was thrown at the Ateret Cohanim yeshiva in the Moslem Quarter. It caused no damage or injuries. There were also disturbances in Beit Hamina in northern Jerusalem last night.

The curfew continued in the Shufat (also known as Anata) refugee camp, just inside the northeastern border of the city. Police lifted the curfew for two hours yesterday afternoon so that the refugee camp's approximately 7,000 residents could stock up on food. The curfew — the second imposed in Jerusalem since 1967 — began at 6 a.m. Sunday. The last curfew was imposed on A-Tur about two weeks ago and lasted one day.

Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev visited the curfew area last night and said that the police may opt to impose longer curfews on Arab neighbourhoods in the future if the trouble persists.

"One way [to control disturbances] is to close the areas for two,

three, four days or more if need be, and see if afterwards the people will feel like doing these things," Bar-Lev said.

The rioting in Jerusalem was less widespread during the day yesterday but stone-throwing and rioting continued in Silwan, Abu Tor and the Old City near Herod's Gate.

Policemen who entered Silwan in a vehicle owned by an Arab resident were forced to flee from the vehicle after Arab youths threw a tear gas grenade into it, witnesses at the scene said. It was not clear how the youths obtained the teargas grenade. The youths proceeded to torch the vehicle. Two policemen were lightly injured.

Earlier in the day, two Jewish youths walking along the walls of the Old City were stoned by youths in the Moslem Quarter. A Border Police medic treated them for light cuts.

Shops and schools in East Jerusalem were closed all day yesterday. The main roads leading in and out of several Arab neighbourhoods were still blocked yesterday either by stones thrown by youths or by earth barricades placed by police.

Positive feedback from Assad

By WOLF BLITZER

WASHINGTON — Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Richard Murphy, now travelling through the Middle East, has received relatively positive indications from Syrian President Hafez Assad about the latest U.S. proposals aimed at resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Well-informed U.S. officials said that Assad, who met with Murphy in Damascus last weekend for over five hours, did not dismiss the latest U.S. proposals out of hand. They said the Syrian leader, who received a letter from President Ronald Reagan, was apparently prepared to continue to listen to the U.S. ideas.

The American officials said that they have further been encouraged by the fact that none of the other major parties involved in the conflict has rejected Secretary of State George Shultz's proposal to focus on substantive rather than procedural issues.

U.S. officials said that Shultz was considering a round of personal shuttle diplomacy in April if more progress could be achieved until then in narrowing Arab and Israeli differences over the exact principles

which would govern some sort of interim period of Palestinian autonomy in the territories.

Once those "modalities" are accepted, U.S. officials said, the Palestinians could hold elections, perhaps as early as this summer, to create a new self-governing body which would participate in the so-called "final status" negotiations with Israel, beginning as early as December.

Jordan's King Hussein, they said, was certainly interested in pursuing the dialogue. "He is prepared to see if it can be translated into action," one U.S. official said.

U.S. officials said that Shultz was looking forward to Prime Minister Shamir's scheduled visit to Washington next month. Shamir is due to meet with Reagan and Shultz on March 16.

Shultz is convinced that any progress in the negotiations will require the joint support of both Shamir and Foreign Minister Peres but does not want to get involved in the domestic political battle between Labour and Likud in advance of the Israeli elections scheduled for November.

At the same time, the Americans are very concerned about the escalated violence in the West Bank and

Gaza. They privately expressed fear that Israel was simply incapable of dealing with the crisis effectively.

"Israel is dealing with the riots the only way it knows how," an American official said, referring to the use of force by Israeli soldiers. "But that merely keeps the flames burning."

Publicly, the State Department yesterday again urged Israel and the Palestinians to exercise restraint. "We're very concerned that the violence in the territories, which seems to have become more serious in recent days, has led to increased deaths and casualties," spokesman Charles Redman said. "We believe that both Israelis and Palestinians share the responsibility to work for the restoration of order and to avoid actions that prolong the confrontation and risk further injuries and loss of life."

Asked about Deputy Premier David Levy's statement that Israel would go ahead with the construction of three new settlements in the West Bank, the spokesman replied: "We believe that increased settlement activity, especially at this time, increases tension when all parties should be working to reduce tensions. Our position on settlements has not changed. We believe that they're an obstacle to peace."

Shultz diplomatic plan could bring quick action to defuse cause of riots

While the media continue to focus on the riots, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy is due here today to pursue a major, but quiet, diplomatic initiative set in motion by the administration two weeks ago.

The plan, formulated by Secretary of State George Shultz with a great deal of input from his executive aide, Charles Hill, has been accepted in principle by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Silently endorsed as a viable alternative to an international conference by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and received in Amman with enough interest to have led King Hussein to tell U.S. envoy Philip Habib last week that he was prepared to "explore the proposal positively."

The plan, though no one will admit it in public, is basically to telescope the Camp David process from five years to nine months, at the end of which Israel and Jordan will have agreed on a model for meaningful Palestinian self-rule in the territories.

In December, a month after the scheduled Knesset elections, and on the eve of a changeover of the American administration, Israel and a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation would start discussions on the final status of the territories.

In other words, the scheme calls for immediate action, designed to

ANALYSIS

Hirsh Goodman

defuse the root causes of the last two months' riots and to channel the sides into a positive diplomatic process, yet leave the real tough decisions — on the final status of the territories — to whatever Israeli government is elected in November.

If the current proposal is to succeed, however, it is crucial that it be distanced sufficiently from the Camp David and autonomy formats to be acceptable to the Palestinians and the Jordanians, and yet be close enough to Camp David to allow the Israeli government to go ahead.

It also has to take into account Jordan's and Egypt's (and Shimon Peres's) commitments to an international conference as the desired means of resolving the conflict, and to find a mechanism for establishing a Palestinian leadership that is independent of the PLO and yet is perceived as truly representative of the Palestinians.

In this last regard, Shamir, in two recent interviews and in private contacts with the U.S., has said that the Palestinian members of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation could be persons "elected by the inhabitants of the West Bank and

Gaza with Israel recognizing those elected."

This is seen as a major break from his previous positions, and has been a source of considerable encouragement in Washington. So was Shamir's agreement to commit Israel to negotiations for Palestinian self-rule "taken to the fullest extent intended by Camp David," and his recognition that there must be a change in the status quo in the territories.

"The riots," one senior American official noted when asked about Shamir's flexibility, "have obviously led to some positive changes in attitude in Israel. The prime minister has come a long, long way."

Mubarak, while in Washington last week, agreed to explore "any avenue" that could restore some modicum of calm, though he technically remained committed to an international conference. He further went out of his way on national television to praise Shamir for "being flexible," and pointed out that if the situation continued to deteriorate, all sides would be the losers.

What makes this American initiative different from the many previous initiatives is the urgency with which it is being pursued and the apparent coalescing of tactical interests among the parties — the U.S., Israel, Jordan, Egypt and a body of responsible Palestinians who the Jordanians and Americans believe can be nurtured in the territories.



Rock-throwers forced police out of a van used as a decoy to enter the village of Silwan next to the Old City of Jerusalem yesterday and set it on fire (below). (Scoop 80)



Two voices from two ministries

Post Diplomatic Correspondent

The Foreign Ministry last week forbade the IDF judge advocate-general, Amnon Strashnov, to appear on American television or to be interviewed for publication during his public relations tour of the U.S.

The Defence Ministry, however, told Strashnov he could do as he pleased, and he was subsequently interviewed by numerous publications, including Newsweek.

In a cable to Israeli representatives in the U.S. last week, Foreign Ministry information officials said that Strashnov must not appear on

television because he was likely to be subjected to harsh questioning on the issue of deportations and on Israel's other policies in the territories.

Notified of the unusual Foreign Ministry ban, the Defence Ministry immediately sent a cable rescinding it.

On Friday, dozens of pro-Palestinian demonstrators prevented Strashnov from addressing students at New York's Columbia University. The students called him a "murderer" and refused to let him speak.

MURPHY

(Continued from Page One)

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who would endorse the international conference; and Israeli recognition of the elected Palestinian representatives following the elections here.

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office said that elections in the territories would only be held after the parties agreed on autonomy in accordance with the Camp David agreements.

But other informed sources said that the U.S. has apparently "plucked" the elections element from the Camp David autonomy proposals and might very well focus on them as the main incentive for the Arabs to endorse proposals on the interim settlement.

After leaving Damascus yesterday morning, Murphy travelled to Riyadh to hold talks with Saudi leaders. No details were forthcoming from yesterday's talks.

The official Syrian Arab News Agency said Murphy met for five hours with Assad on Sunday night and handed him a letter from President Ronald Reagan.

Jonathan Karp adds:
Prime Minister Shamir told reporters in Holon yesterday that the U.S. supported his view that the Camp David accords represent the only basis for a political solution in the territories.

"I think that the U.S. understands that if we want to advance peace, we have to do it this way," Shamir said during a tour of Egged facilities. "They have to be committed to the accords. They may come up with some schemes to bring the Arabs to the negotiating table, but the basis has to be Camp David."

Shamir dodged the question of whether Murphy's visit itself represented progress toward peace, and he refused to say whether one of the U.S. administration's schemes was an international conference.

HOSPITALS

(Continued from Page One)

warned the strikers that they would very soon be "stepping over a line of no return," and demanded that they go back to work. She added, however, that she was against the issuance of court injunctions to force them back to the wards.

The government hospital doctors are proceeding with sanctions they have carried out for over a month. Today and tomorrow, no elective surgery will be performed at Barzilai Hospital in Ashkelon, Nahariya Hospital or Hillel Yaffe in Hadera. Outpatient clinics will be closed from today until Friday at Wolfson in Holon, Sheba at Tel Hashomer and Assaf Harofe in Tzrifin. The physicians are demanding the same overtime pay for a second shift as Kupat Holim Clalit doctors have been promised by their management.

The anesthesiologists are likewise

continuing their sanctions. Non-emergency operations will not be performed today at Wolfson, Barzilai, Hadassah-Ein Kerem and Hasharon hospitals. Tomorrow, the targets are Beilinson in Petah Tikva, Josephthal in Eilat, Nahariya and Hadassah-Mt. Scopus.

The strike by 7,000 microbiologists, biochemists and laboratory workers around the country, which began on Sunday, is causing havoc as well. Dr. Alma Avni, head of the Health Ministry's public health department, warned that during the strike public water supplies are not being tested for infection or pollution. She asked Mekorot and the local authorities to take special care in purifying their water.

The young guard of Mapam will hold a sit-down demonstration outside the Treasury starting today until the hospital strikes

HU to lower axe on top academics

By BERNARD JOSEPHS
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The jobs of more than 200 senior academics, including full professors and veteran lecturers, are to be wiped out by the almost penniless Hebrew University as part of a five-year plan to pull the institution out of its financial woes.

The university will also make further cuts in its administrative staff, which was reduced by 400 positions during last year's belt-tightening operation.

University sources stressed that the unprecedented reduction in academic positions would take place over the entire five-year period and as far as possible, the cuts would be achieved by not replacing staff who retire. But, they added, those who go will all be in senior positions.

At the same time, officials say, 75 new appointments will be made to provide "new blood" for the university's teaching staff.

The decisions were made yesterday by the board of governors which they adopted a stringent recovery plan drawn up by the institution's administration, led by its president, Professor Amnon Pazy.

The board heard that while the current deficit had been cut from \$37 million to \$17m. in the past year, the university's accumulated deficit had now reached \$100m.

Apart from the sharp reduction in staff, the plan calls for increased efficiency in purchasing and maintenance operations, the sale of properties, a major fund-raising campaign by the institution's world-wide network of supporters and efforts to raise income by increasing student enrolment.

WALDHEIM

(Continued from Page One)

tions of human rights in the place where a person was stationed, if the person concerned — for lack of strength or courage — violated his human duty to take steps against injustice."

Yehuda Wallach, the Israeli commission member, said Waldheim's proximity to "unlawful acts" varied with the positions he held in the Balkans between 1942 to 1945. But, he stressed, the report contained evidence that "nothing happened" to other officers who had objected to unlawful acts. "So the claim that ... he couldn't oppose orders is simply not true."

The historian said the report also made what he called "a very important point" of the fact that Waldheim "tried for very many years to conceal certain parts of his wartime history and only reluctantly admitted certain facts when he was presented with evidence he couldn't deny."

Interviewed last night on Israel Television, Wallach said: "There is no doubt that he knew about orders that went against international law, and no doubt that he passed on such orders."

"Also as an intelligence man who wrote reports and submitted assessments he contributed to the taking of decisions. What is clear is that he was 'in the picture.' He was part of the whole system. He is too close to acts that break the international rules of war. We've expressed this. There is no doubt that this material is a basis for policy decisions and in certain respects could be used for the opening of legal proceedings."

The report was handed over to Vranitzky and Deputy Chancellor Alois Mock with a 90-minute delay. Rumours abounded of pressure from Mock, a staunch Waldheim backer, to tone the report down at the last minute.

Mock denied such pressure was exercised. But several members of the commission said small changes had been made at the last minute. Kurz was said to have been talking with a senior assistant of Mock's at the Foreign Ministry late yesterday morning.

Several hundred journalists and TV crews gathered outside the wing of the Hofburg palace where Waldheim has his office, hoping for a glimpse of the commission members or government officials.

Throughout the afternoon, there were unconfirmed reports that the commission's document had been changed virtually at the last minute.

Asked whether the reports were accurate, panel member Manfred Messerschmidt said, "That's correct." But he provided no further details in a brief interview with Austrian radio.

According to press reports, Messerschmidt said Waldheim as a young officer routinely got reports that clearly indicated what was happening in the regions in which he served in the Balkans.

Kurz, who heads the six-member government-appointed commission, emphasized the report was "critical" and "severe." Waldheim has said he will not consider the commission's conclusions binding.

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE — JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION
13 King David Street, Jerusalem
Tel. 02-203333. Bus No. 5, 6, 15, 18, 21, 30



We regret to announce that, for technical reasons, the panel discussion:

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE TERRITORIES

scheduled for tonight

has been postponed.

Move to bar MKs from moonlighting

By DVORAH GETZLER

Post Knesset Reporter

The Knesset yesterday took the first move towards barring future MKs from holding any other paid employment during their term in the Knesset, when it unanimously passed the first reading of a bill that grew out of a 1977 Knesset-appointed commission on the subject.

Under the terms of the bill, members elected to the Knesset in future will be forbidden to engage in any paid employment, or to be partners in such employment, unless they receive special permission from a Knesset committee. That permission will be granted only if the employment is of a temporary nature, if it is in keeping with the dignity of the Knesset, and if it precludes any conflict of interest.

Excluded from the provisions of the bill are MKs who work as writers, musicians and the like.

The bill follows the recommendations of the Tunik Commission adopted by the House Committee last year.

Tel Aviv University
The Sackler Faculty of Medicine
honours the memory of

ELDAD PORAT

who died on February 2, 1988 (14 Shvat 5748).

He bequeathed his body to science.

The Alon Orthopaedic Hospital
and Rehabilitation Center for
Severely Physically Handicapped Children in Jerusalem
deeply mourns the passing of

LAUDY LAWRENCE

a caring, loving and concerned friend
of our children

The 'year of wooing' ends as Iowans decide whom they like best

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — After a long year of being wooed by candidates, Iowans met last night in schools, firehouses and living rooms to make the electorate's first major decisions of the 1988 presidential campaign.

Voters here gathered in 2,487 precinct caucuses, the first step in choosing delegates to the national conventions that will nominate the major parties' candidates. Results were due early this morning, Israel time.

Iowa, a largely rural state of about 3 million people in the nation's agricultural heartland, contributes only a small percentage of the nation's delegates. But the caucuses are regarded as the first important test of which candidates have captured voters' hearts and minds.

The speech-making and handshaking was continuing right up to the doors of

precinct caucuses, with Republican Sen. Bob Dole and Democrat Jesse Jackson planning to greet people as they arrived at the meetings.

Candidates in both parties were touting their sometimes-harsh rhetoric and keeping an eye on the weather.

Snow was expected over much of the state by caucus time. A severe storm was considered likely to help former fundamentalist Christian evangelist Pat Robertson, whose supporters were expected to brave any conditions to cast votes for him in the Republican race.

What the candidates seek in Iowa is to be perceived early on as a winner. They hope that aura will stick with them in the Feb. 16 New Hampshire primary, the first in which delegates are selected directly by voters.

The final week of the Republican cam-

paign was dominated by squabbling between Dole and Vice President George Bush. Representative Jack Kemp of New York accused Robertson supporters of distorting his record on pornography and abortion.

The debate was calmer among the Democrats. Two candidates from states bordering Iowa — Sen. Paul Simon of Illinois and Rep. Richard Gephardt of Missouri — and Gov. Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts looked like the candidates most likely to win wide approval.

Dole, whose home state of Kansas is also largely agricultural, held a 14-point lead over Bush in Iowa, according to a newspaper poll published Sunday.

Gov. Pete du Pont of Delaware also is in the running in Iowa, but the sixth Republican contender, former Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr., stopped campaign-

ing in Iowa months ago and is concentrating on New Hampshire.

On the Democratic side in the poll, Gephardt had the support of 25 per cent of people who said they planned to attend the Democratic caucuses. Simon was second at 19 per cent, followed by Dukakis at 15. Former Gov. Bruce Babbitt of Arizona, Jackson, Gary Hart and Sen. Albert Gore Jr. of Tennessee had less than 10 per cent each.

This is the first time since 1960 that an incumbent president is not seeking renomination and as a result, Iowa has been awash with candidates from both parties.

Gephardt had spent 144 days in Iowa since 1986, while Babbitt was in the state for 118 days during the same period. Du Pont was in the state for 91 days to lead the GOP contenders.

The big unknown in Iowa was the

strength of Robertson's support, largely from people not traditionally active in Republican politics.

For a week, Bush and Dole had snapped at each other, their rhetoric growing increasingly nasty. On Sunday they tried to cool tempers.

Appearing on the ABC television show, "This Week With David Brinkley," the vice president offered to "totally apologize" if a statement put out by his campaign critical of Dole was offensive to the senator's wife, Elizabeth.

"That's what I wanted him to do... so I'm satisfied," said Dole, campaigning in Western Iowa.

As they tried to calm their feud, Kemp complained that Robertson supporters were circulating a pamphlet that described him as soft on pornography and abortion.

"I say out of sadness that in the 11th

hour — I don't think Pat would do it — but some supporters of his have put out some type of a biblical scorecard," he said.

Kemp called the material "a distortion of my long-time record."

Robertson campaign aides denied any involvement with the material.

After years of campaigning, endless issue papers and a mind-numbing series of debates, Iowa's presidential caucuses come down to organizational politics. A small slice of the hundreds of out-of-state backers of Republican hopeful Dole will be making sure that everyone who needs a ride to a local caucus will have one.

Bringing in volunteers from other states to provide cars is a new variation on a simple theme — getting Iowans to bundle up on a frigid evening, troop to their neighborhood school or fire station and support a candidate for president.

Panama recalls envoys from Washington as dispute over drug charges worsens

NEW YORK (Reuters) — A row between Panama and the U.S. appeared to be worsening yesterday, with Panamanian government newspapers reporting the recall of the country's envoys from Washington.

The reported decision followed the U.S. indictment on drug trafficking charges of the Panamanian ruler, General Manuel Noriega, who said the Reagan administration was irked because he had refused to cooperate in a plan to invade Nicaragua.

Juan Sosa, Panama's ambassador to the U.S., UN Ambassador Jorge Ritter, and Panama's representative to the Organization of American States, Roberto Leyton, were or-

dered to "return urgently" to Panama City for consultations, the reports said.

They also said Panama's military chiefs of staff had ordered all cadets studying in U.S. military schools to return home.

Noriega, Panama's *de facto* ruler since 1983, suggested in an interview with CBS-TV on Sunday that indictments against him in Miami last week were designed to destabilize his government because Washington was not satisfied with his policies on Nicaragua and the Panama Canal.

He said former national security adviser J. Edgar Hoover had asked him in 1980 for military cooperation

in a planned invasion of Nicaragua. "Yes, they were going to hit Nicaragua," he said through a translator.

"They were going to invade Nicaragua, and the only reason they didn't do it was because Panama was in the way."

He said Poindexter told him he was speaking on President Reagan's behalf and threatened economic and political retaliation if Panama did not help Nicaragua's Contras.

Captain Moises Cortizo, a Panamanian officer who CBS said was at the Poindexter meeting, said: "They wanted Panamanian forces to go in with American forces, but we'd go in first. Then we'd get support from American troops."

Asked about the report on Sunday night, a White House spokesman said: "No comment. Nothing tonight."

In the grand jury indictments, Noriega is accused of turning his country's armed forces into a vast criminal enterprise to aid Colombian smugglers shipping drugs to the U.S.

Noriega accused Washington of mounting a campaign against him in an attempt to back out of the 1977 treaty under which the U.S. must hand back control of the canal to Panama by the year 2000. He denied that he had ever profited from drug shipments from Panama and Colombia to the U.S.

South Korean opposition leader quits

SEOUL (AFP) — Opposition leader Kim Young Sam said yesterday that he was resigning as president of South Korea's largest opposition party in order to unify the opposition camp before the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

"I resign today as president of the Reunification Democratic Party, remaining as simple party member for the sake of an early unification of the opposition camp," Kim told a hurriedly convened press conference.

Analysts said Kim's resignation was aimed at forging his rival, Kim Dae Jung, to announce his own resignation from leadership of the Peace and Democracy Party, the country's second largest opposition group.

Kim Young Sam further hoped that a united opposition would eventually choose him as the new leader. Kim Dae Jung has launched a major reorganization of the PDP, reorganizing its dissidents and recruiting prominent trade unionists promising to lead a "collective leadership," he has shown little interest in unification of the mainstream opposition.

Kim YC said he felt a "deep sense of guilt" for causing the opposition defeat in the country's first direct presidential election in 16 years in 1987 by failing to put up a strong opposition candidate.

Ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) Roh Tae Woo won the election, with 36.6 per cent of the vote, while the two Kim brothers ran and split the votes between them.

LESLIE LAMIGAT was sworn in as Haiti's new president and appealed to Washington to resume suspended U.S. aid. Lamigat, a political scientist, spent 25 years in exile during the dictatorship of the Duvalier family, the oath on Sunday, two years to the day after young dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier fled Haiti after 30 years of rule by his family.

EIGHT PEOPLE accused of plotting to overthrow the Somali government have been sentenced to death by the national security court, the official Somali news agency reported. Among those sentenced was former third vice-president Ismail Ali Abokor and former foreign minister Omer Arshad Ghalib, the agency reported. Their trial began last Monday.

THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES is considering introducing military conscription. Sheikh Saqr bin Mohammed al-Qassbi, ruler of Ras al-Khaimah emirate, told *Al-Fajr* newspaper that the federal Supreme Council had discussed the issue and "we hope that a conscription law would be passed soon."

IRANIAN INDUSTRIAL workers earn an average of 57,557 rials

FOREIGN BRIEFS

(about \$70 on the open market) a month, the Labour Ministry reported in a survey quoted by *Teheran Radio*. Nearly a quarter of the workers were illiterate and only about a fifth of the rest had finished high school or had college education.

A CLEANER found a hand grenade wrapped in paper tissue in the lavatory of a Middle East Airlines jet at Beirut Airport yesterday. Lebanese and Syrian security staff questioned passengers after the grenade was discovered aboard the Boeing 707, which landed at Beirut on a flight from Damascus to Egypt.

EXTENSIVE GLACIERS in north-west China are melting and shrinking by about 20 per cent every 20 years due to a rise in temperature over the past few decades, the New China News Agency said yesterday. They are melting at the rate of 25 billion cubic metres a year, it added.

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India's defeat of Tamil rebels predicted by April

COLOMBO (Reuters) — India says it will crush Sri Lanka's Tamil rebels by the end of April and start withdrawing its peacekeeping troops by July, a Sri Lankan government minister said yesterday.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said that Indian officials have said their army would defeat Tamil rebels in the island's troubled northern and eastern provinces by the end of April. The troops would then begin to leave Sri Lanka by July after provincial councils were set up.

Athulathmudali said: "They say... their programme is that by end of April they'll wrap up the north and east, so that we can then

proceed towards elections. They say we start the [electoral] process by May and by July it's over. Then we get out. That's what they say."

India has about 55,000 soldiers in the island's northern and eastern provinces to enforce a pact with Sri Lanka aimed at ending a five-year-old Tamil separatist war.

Athulathmudali said the troop pullout timetable was discussed by Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi two weeks ago. Athulathmudali accompanied Jayewardene on a state visit to the Indian capital.

The pact aims to give autonomy to all regions of Sri Lanka, including

a eas dominated by the island's minority Tamil community, through the setting up of new provincial councils.

Athulathmudali said the Indians told him they would saturate the north and east with soldiers to rid the area of guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam separatist group, which has repudiated the accord. The Indians have not informed Sri Lanka of the maximum number of troops that would be involved, he said.

The Indian Army said 353 of its men died and 1,127 were wounded in an offensive against Tiger rebels in the northern peninsula of Jaffna last year.

America's oldest newspaper in bitter fight for survival

NEW YORK (Reuters) — The New York Post, the tough, racy tabloid that is America's oldest newspaper, is in a fight for survival as owner Rupert Murdoch tries to win drastic concessions from the paper's workers so he can sell it.

Murdoch, the controversial Australian-born media baron whose publishing empire spans the globe, met the unions representing The Post's 1,200 workers yesterday to tell them what cuts he needs so he can sell the paper to real estate developer Peter Kalikow for \$37 million.

An agreement to sell the paper was announced on Sunday, but it is contingent on winning union concessions. Although he lost up to \$17 million dollars a year in the 11 years he has owned The Post, Murdoch is

reluctant to sell the paper that gave him a voice in America's biggest media market. But his hand was forced by powerful Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy last Christmas when Kennedy pushed through a bill that effectively outlawed Murdoch's ownership of both newspapers and television stations in New York and Boston.

Murdoch cried foul and went to court. But he also took bids for The Post. Under Murdoch, the paper changed from a sleepy, liberal paper to a politically conservative one with a penchant for screaming headlines like "Headless body found in topless bar" and "She was nice to me, then I kicked her off the roof." The Post went from a circulation of 460,000 to almost a million but needed advertising did not follow and Murdoch said

he was losing an average of \$1 million a month.

One posted department store owner is reported to have told Murdoch, in explaining why he would never advertise in The Post: "Your readers are our shoppers." Murray Kempton, the Pulitzer prize-winning columnist, the *Post*'s former prize-winning columnist, the *Post* said recently that working for Murdoch was like riding the Staten Island ferry with Long John Silver as captain.

Circulation of the paper, founded in 1801 by Alexander Hamilton, is now down to just over 500,000 as the paper in an economy move drastically cut back on its editions and area of circulation.

The *Post* is one of four dailies in New York, with only The New York Times reporting hefty profits.

Kalikow, listed by *Forbes* magazine as one of America's richest men, bid \$37 million for the paper and says he wants to keep it alive.

He has no experience in running a newspaper and many *Post* employees say they fear his real interest is in developing the paper's block-long site on the edge of Manhattan's Wall Street financial district.

But some older employees say they are not too worried. "When I arrived as a copyboy 40 years ago, the paper was on the verge of folding. It still is. What else is new," said one reporter.



Per Olof Hallquist, local director of the UN Relief and Works Agency, flanked by a Sunni Muslim gunman (left) and journalists, leaves the house of Sunni leader Mustapha Saad after a meeting yesterday in Sidon, South Lebanon. Unrwa officials in Beirut said there were still no signs of the two kidnapped Scandinavian workers although their release had been promised momentarily. (Reuters)

Gorbachev: Afghan pullout on May 15

ISLAMABAD (Reuters) — UN mediator Diego Cordovez left here for Kabul yesterday a few hours before Krenlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev announced that Soviet troops could begin leaving Afghanistan on May 15.

Cordovez's second visit to Kabul in two days and the fourth since he arrived in the region on January 20 for his latest round of shuttle diplomacy followed further talks on Afghanistan with Pakistani officials yesterday morning.

In Moscow, Gorbachev in a statement released by the Soviet news agency Tass said the withdrawal could begin if agreement was reached at the Geneva talks beginning on March 15. The Soviet leader said the withdrawal could be completed within 10 months.

Hamadi indicted in TWA hijacking

FRANKFURT (AP) — Suspected Lebanese terrorist Mohammed Ali Hamadi was indicted here yesterday on charges of murder and air piracy in the 1985 hijacking of a TWA jetliner, officials said. A U.S. Navy diver was killed in the 1985 hijacking and 39 Americans were held hostage for 17 days.

Hamadi was arrested in January 1987 at Frankfurt Airport after customs officials found explosives in his baggage.

Hamadi's older brother, Abbas Ali Hamadi, is on trial in a Duesseldorf court on charges that he masterminded the kidnapping of two West Germans in Beirut to force the West German government to release his brother.

Gaddafi holds talks with Algerian, Tunisian presidents

TUNIS (Reuters) — Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, on a tour of North Africa to discuss regional alliances, joined the Algerian and Tunisian presidents yesterday at a summit crowning recent contacts between their countries.

Gaddafi travelled with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid to the Tunisian border town of Sakiet Sidi Youssef to meet President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, the official Tunisian news agency TAP said. Earlier Gaddafi and Chadli met in eastern Algeria.

The Libyan leader paid a two-day visit to Tunisia for talks with Ben Ali last week to seal a renewal of diplomatic relations between their countries in December after a break of more than two years.

Gaddafi, whose return to Tunisia yesterday was unannounced, joined the Tunisian and Algerian leaders who are marking the 30th anniversary of the French bombing of the border town during the Algerian War of Independence.

Although details of their talks were not immediately available, political sources said they concerned Gaddafi's quest for unity among North African Arab states or the Maghreb.

Chadli and Gaddafi flew into Sakiet Sidi Youssef from the eastern Algerian town of Annaba where they on Sunday met Mohamed Abdelaziz, leader of the self-styled Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, the Algerian news agency APS said.

The meetings were the latest in a flurry of high-level talks between Maghreb leaders devoted to discussion of plans for regional unity.

THIRTEEN WORKERS have committed suicide after the factory where they were employed shut down in India's Kerala state, the Press Trust of India said yesterday.

To: The Palestinians
From: The Zionist Peace Camp

Don't Ram Us with the Ark Send Us the Dove

Tell us you are ready to abandon terror, and exchange the mutual infliction of bloodshed for negotiations, aimed at achieving peace, based on reciprocal recognition, and national self-determination by our two peoples.

State your agreement to abandon all violence immediately, on a reciprocal basis. Only by acting together can we rid this country of the bitter strife. Only by acting together can we escape the occupation-terror maelstrom, and bring back peace and security to our peoples.

State publicly that the borders to be agreed upon, and the agreements to be worked out with your participation will be final, and not a basis for additional claims.

Neither a flotilla of propaganda ships, nor an armada of "media" boats will be able to breach the walls of suspicion and enmity, but the navies of the world will be powerless to block the flight of one dove, bearing the news of compromise and peace.

Send out the dove — the Israeli Peace Camp will respond with an olive branch.

MAPAM

The trouble is 'far away,' and the settlers in Samaria feel safe but the greengrocer hasn't been seen for a week

Pedu'el—a secluded spot where stones are thrown at sheep

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Jerusalem Post Reporter

PEDU'EL—Take the road from the south and you won't have to worry," Gabi Ellinson said over the phone as we arranged to meet at this tiny West Bank settlement, some 12 kilometres southeast of Petah Tikva.

It was quiet on the barely-travelled route winding in and out of a valley. Sheep meandered down the road; a stone the shepherd picked up was thrown at the sheep and not the traveller.

The wooden guardhouse at the entrance to the fenced settlement was empty. The barrier was wide open.

"There have been no attacks on Samarian settlements. Never," Ellinson said in his caravan's book-lined living room.

Twenty five families live at Pedu'el and all the men except the

secretary and Ellinson (who imports Italian vending machines) work in the greater Tel Aviv area. The army assigns several soldiers to guard the settlement, and the women who stay home with the pre-school children say they feel safe.

They feel safe also because many women lead a fairly secluded life. Going to town for a dinner or a show means travelling for an hour and a half. Few friends come out here. Instead, the settlers have lectures and parties. Last week they bought a central video system for Pedu'el.

The trouble is "far away," Ellinson said. "We hear about roadblocks and fire bombs—but you won't find those around here."

The residents talked about their friendly relations with Kfar a-Dik, tucked on a slope several kilometres east of here. Residents of the settlement and the village have been to one another's celebrations. In the

summer, when their supplies dwindled, the Arab villagers came to Pedu'el for water. A pediatrician, the brother of one of Pedu'el's residents, circumcised some of the a-Dik boys.

At the day creche, Nurit Brukner picked up one-year-old Elad and hugged him, ignoring his running nose. "Right that we feel good here?" she asked him.

But the visitor senses the selective perception.

The greengrocer who used to come from Kfar a-Dik with his Volkswagen hasn't been seen here for over a week. He let it be known that he's afraid of the *shabab* in his village.

Pedu'el's residents seem to ignore nearby Dir Balut, which they pass every day on their way to the Dan Region. Dir Balut produced the murderers of David Manos, a soldier who was kidnapped in one of the more horrible acts of terror.



LIFE ON THE GREEN LINE

And in the past few days trouble seems to have increased on the road from Pedu'el north to Elkana.

Two women who had left with their children to see the doctor at Elkana turned back because they saw Arabs gathering along the way. Sometimes kindergarten teachers turn up late because they have to take a roundabout route.

Pedu'el's children go to school in

Elkana. The army sends a jeep ahead of their bus and a soldier sits with them on board, but in at least one instance, the children were more than 30 minutes late because the driver decided on a detour to avoid trouble.

Yesterday stones were piced again on the bus route. The soldiers stopped a taxi and a Volkswagen and ordered the Arab passengers to clear the rocks. Meanwhile the commander walked uphill, alone, into the village and two teenagers stoned him. He was not hurt.

Some residents appear to take these roadblocks in their stride. Some skirt them. Last night they wanted to remove them, but soldiers insisted that Arabs do the job.

"Once you pass through your second roadblock, you overcome the fear," Malka Lilienthal said.

Nevertheless women refrain from going out alone at night and occa-

sionally make sure someone is armed when they drive out of Pedu'el.

"I have an Uzi which I got from the authorities, and a revolver, so when I have to travel late at night, or take the children, I go armed," Ellinson said.

He is concerned mainly with the impact the uprising will have on potential settlers. Pedu'el has found it difficult to attract new members. It published advertisements in the press and put a sign on the road saying "come visit—and stay."

The 25 families now in the settlement plan to start construction of their permanent site in the spring, and earthmoving work has already begun. Taking this reporter up a steep hill, Ellinson pointed at a small stick among the rocks commanding a view of the coastal plain. A piece of red plastic tape attached to it bore the number 56. "There

will be a parking lot here," he said. But he was worried. "If I knew that only 25 families will be here in 10 years' time, I'd leave," he said. "I don't want to live in a city, but I don't want to live in a very small place either. For 25 families you're not going to have a school, shops, a bank and or warm rolls for breakfast. I don't want my children to have to go to Petah Tikva to see friends."

At one time he was sure it would take three to four years for Pedu'el to grow significantly, but today he feels it will take longer. Some people won't even set foot in Samaria, he notes.

When we talked, Ellinson had just returned from reserve duty, which he spent patrolling the Israeli-Egyptian border. Some of his fellow reservists asked: "What are you doing in Samaria? Move to some place normal!"

'Select few' in government hospitals face nightmare

By KEN SCHACHTER
TEL HASHOMER—The maintenance workers and clerks are still on strike. X-ray technicians are staging a one-day walkout. Laboratory technicians are holding a three-day strike. In the Aids era, carelessly discarded syringes are frightening evidence of the crisis at Sheba Hospital. In normal times, disposable syringes are carefully thrown away; today, they litter walkways and parking lots.

Top administrators decided yesterday to stop admitting patients to Sheba. And throughout the strike, now entering its 11th day, doctors have been busily sending home those not in dire need of care. Government hospitals today are no place for the healthy, let alone the sick. They are, however, working

well as examples of the power of organized labour.

In ward after ward at Sheba, the floors, usually spotless, are smeared with grime. Patients are using sheets and blankets brought from home because the hospital's laundry is piled high in closets and hallways. Family members, who bravely wielded mops during the first few days of the strike, have retreated before the rising tide of filth.

A social worker said some patients and their families did not seem to understand the implications of the chaos around them. Families are demanding that patients receive normal care, a patently absurd expectation.

Dr. Michael Ehrenfeld, of the internal medicine ward, pointed out that the airline-style meals bought

by the hospital are not suitable for patients on special diets. Patients have been taken off respirators because there has been no one to sterilize the equipment, he said. In other cases, patients have been kept on respirators despite the fact that the equipment wasn't sterilized. Test tubes are in short supply.

The laboratory strike has made diagnosis difficult in many cases. Tests are only processed on a "super-urgent basis," Ehrenfeld said. Diagnosing patients without tests, he said, is "scary."

The hospital directors' decision not to admit patients from today and to use the emergency room as a first aid station merely reflected a siege mentality.

"They feel they've lost control completely," he said.



Mourners at the funeral yesterday of Rafi Nelson, who founded a holiday village in Taba soon after the Six Day War. Nelson, 58, died of heart failure over the weekend. (IPPA)

If not for an extraordinary confession, a Jewish-Arab youth meeting on Sunday to protest the general situation might have been just another hour at Tzavta.

There were the bright-eyed teenagers full of bright hopes about controlling their future, petitions in hand to send to the prime minister, bright rhetoric about how the politicians are shortsighted and send youth off to old people's battles. There were the quotes from Martin Luther King Jr. and Amos Oz, and there were the pimply boys and the soon-to-be striking young women. The meeting was called by "Youth Who Sing A Different Song" which is a teenage Jewish-Arab group formed after the anti-Arab rioting that followed the murder of two Afula schoolteachers a few years ago.

But then Makram Khoury got up to speak. Khoury, a 42-year-old Arab actor and winner of the Israel Prize, is a natural symbol of coexistence.

But being a living symbol of anything is hard, and being a living symbol of coexistence in these times is particularly hard, especially when you're desperate to do something that somehow can improve the situation.

Khoury said that he wanted to share his confusion, his uncertainty, his inner deliberations. He used a word in Hebrew, *hildabut*, that means not quite vacillation, not quite hesitancy, not quite spiritual confusion, and not quite irresolution.

He wanted to share that feeling, for it derived from a very specific decision he had to make.

A few weeks ago he agreed to emcee a live TV show called *Mediterranean Festival*. "It's an entertainment show," he said, with Jewish and Arab singers, and he is to emcee it with Anat Aizman.

Symbol of coexistence bares his identity crisis

Tel Aviv Tel Aviv
Robert Rosenberg



But things have changed since he agreed to do the show, and now he's wondering what to do. Should he appear on the show, "as if nothing has changed, as if life simply goes on?" Should he go on the air and say something, "just a little something" about the need for listening to one another instead of beating and stoning one another, "about the importance of laughing and smiling but also about the importance of the

pain felt by an Israeli Arab desperately trying to feel responsible to himself, to his people, to his country."

"Of course, they wouldn't let me say such a thing," he noted without any real bitterness in his voice. Indeed, there was no bitterness at all in his speech.

"And why do I not want to go on the show? Because if I go on, people will be able to say, 'yes, there really is coexistence, things are really okay, or maybe I shouldn't go on because I have to stand up and somehow be counted, or is it for me, and only for me, to make me feel better, even though I know it won't really change anything. And yet, I know the show is only entertainment, but still, it has Jewish and Arab performers, so maybe it is more important than only entertainment, which is also important."

He wrestled with these questions in public for a few minutes, and then read two short poems by Bertold Brecht. But before he left the stage, he asked if anyone in the audience had any advice for him.

There was a long silence.

So he smiled and strode off the stage to a big round of applause, but then one of the girls got up and said she had a question for him.

"If you don't go on the show, who will know that you aren't going on as a protest?" she asked.

He went back to the microphone.

"Maybe nobody, except of course, you and my friends, will know. But I will know I didn't go. I will know, and maybe that's all I can hope for, that I can do the right thing, just like you all are looking for the right thing to do."

Meanwhile, he said, "the fact that I told you about this quandary probably means I've made up my mind. But maybe I haven't. I really and truly don't know what to do."

Plan to turn NIS 50,000 housing loan into grant, if you produce 5 children

By JEFF BLACK
For The Jerusalem Post

Young couples starting a family could get loans of NIS 50,000 and have them converted into grants if they have five children, according to a scheme proposed yesterday by National Insurance Institute Director-General Mordechai Zippori.

At present, 120,000 of the country's 650,000 families have over four children. Zippori told a press conference yesterday that the demographic problem facing not only Israel, but also World Jewry, demanded a dramatic rise in the Jewish birth rate.

Zippori proposed the establishment of a special fund by the government and Jewish Agency, with contributions from Diaspora Jewry, which would give young married couples a NIS 30,000 to NIS 50,000 loan. This money, he said, would enable the couple to start off married life on a sound financial footing. The loan would be awarded according to the family's financial situation, but if the couple has five

children, then the loan would become a grant.

The NII director-general stressed that this loan scheme was a personal idea. But if adopted, he said, the country could expect an annual birth rate of around 150,000.

Zippori also criticized the present system of child allowances. He noted that they existed to compensate for the mother's loss of income due to absences from work, rather than to encourage larger families.

Moreover, recent budget cuts have eroded the value of child allowances and discriminate against smaller families, Zippori said.

He pointed out that families with three children were particularly hard-hit. Last month, a family with three children received NIS 140 in child allowances compared with NIS 361 for families with four children. Zippori said that the most effective way to encourage a higher birth rate was to improve the financial situation of families with two and three children.

A.B. Yehoshua calls attention to how the Diaspora threatens Israel

By LEA LEVAVI
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV—The Diaspora threatens Israel's existence more than the Arab problem or the machinations of the superpowers, author A.B. Yehoshua told Wisniewski at Rebecca Steiff House yesterday.

In a lecture entitled "The Fear of Eretz Yisrael," he quoted a Talmudic saying that the Second Commonwealth was destroyed because not all the Jews returned to Israel when given the chance. He said the same fate could befall the State of Israel.

"When Holocaust Memoirs Day comes around, listen to the speeches. You'll hear the Holocaust blamed on many things, but you won't hear the one simple sentence which needs to be uttered, namely that the Holocaust occurred because the Diaspora existed. If 90 million Soviet citizens died of starvation, I would blame Communism, but we're not willing to take any part of the blame for what happened to us."

"I hate the phrase 'Jewish destiny,'" he went on, "because it is always used to explain failures. The Six Day War or the peace with Egypt are never attributed to 'Jewish destiny.'"

He said that those who believe the Diaspora was forced on the Jews, and those who say Jews are naturally a people of the Diaspora, are wrong. Jews have always loved and longed for Eretz Yisrael, but have also always been afraid of it. Unlike other peoples, most Jews were not born in their own land.

Though there were never legal impediments to Jewish settlement here (except for a brief period when Jews were forbidden to settle in Je-

rusalem, Jews did not come in the centuries during which the country changed hands at least half a dozen times.

At the time of the Balfour Declaration, only 50,000 of the world's 14 million Jews lived here. As for those who have come since the establishment of the state, Yehoshua said 90 per cent were refugees without a choice.

But why don't Diaspora Jews want to come here? He rejected the rationalizations about money, security and the rest. The real reasons, he said, are much deeper and often subconscious.

"I believe there is a deep-seated fear of a situation in which other Jews have power to tell you what to do. Even in the most closed and Orthodox ghetto, a Jew's existence was not totally dependent on other Jews—he would get out of the ghetto."

The other factor, he believes, is the ideology of the Chosen People. "Jews want to be more different than any other people... if you mix drops of red with other colours, it will look unclean, and Jews and out-moynen mixed among other peoples."

Referring to current events, Yehoshua said it is difficult for him to see Israelis beating up people, but every nation goes through difficult crises and "I would prefer to be here than to watch on American television. I don't like the people who use a country as a sort of home and don't feel responsible for what happens there, which is the way Diaspora Jews use the countries which they live."

AJC chief: imposed settlement if Likud wins in November poll

By WOLF BLITZER
WASHINGTON—A Likud victory in Israel's November elections, without a change in the party's basic position on the peace process, could result in a Middle East settlement imposed by the superpowers, an American Jewish leader warned Sunday.

Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, said that it was "entirely possible, of course, that the Israeli Labour Party, which favours political negotiations and a compromise, will not emerge victorious from the November elections. If that happens and the Likud does not change its position, the likelihood is that the play will be taken from Israel and a solution will be imposed on the parties as a result of a Soviet agreement."

Writing on *The Washington Post's* op-ed page, Siegman said that Israel's resentment of those who would "save Israel from itself" is understandable. "Israelis have a right to be suspicious of such 'savior' forms of political altruism," he said.

"But the rest of the world is unaffected by what happens in the Middle East, and the great powers will most certainly act to protect what they perceive to be their interests," he continued. "Be sure, that is the least desirable scenario from Israel's point of view. However, given the paralysis of the present government, the inevitable denouement is inviting."

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Eda Haredit urges prayer for 'serious situation in our land'

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The ultra-Orthodox Eda Haredit yesterday called for prayer and fasting because of the "serious situation in our land."

The call came in posters in Jerusalem's Mea Shearim quarter. Unsigned posters put up last week had said that the continued unrest in the territories was the result of cinemas opening on Shabbat.

Yesterday's posters made no mention of wrongdoing by others, but called upon the readers to fast and to recite Psalms, "because of the great catastrophe facing our people."

Observers of Jerusalem's religious scene have noted that since unrest has intensified in the territories and East Jerusalem, there has been a marked drop in ultra-Orthodox demonstrations.

Ten year old run down crossing coastal highway

PARDESS HANNA (Iim)—A 10-year-old girl from Jasser a-Zarka was killed yesterday afternoon while crossing the coastal highway near her village. She was hit by a car travelling from Haifa to Tel Aviv. The driver, a 24-year-old resident of Pardes Hanna, was detained.



The parents of police Sergeant-Major Avraham Bayazit, who was murdered by gangsters two years ago, unveil a memorial for him yesterday at the intersection of Jaffa Road and Rehov Shalomzion Hamalka in downtown Jerusalem. Among those present were Mayor Teddy Kollek and senior police officers. (Scoop 80)

NICARAGUA'S Contra rebels, blocked in the U.S. Congress last week from continued aid, are a fractious force that in six years of struggle have not held a Nicaraguan town or demonstrated they have substantial popular support.

The Contras' public relations efforts have been an uphill battle since the CIA formed them in late 1981 from remnants of the National Guard that had helped keep rightist dictator Anastasio Somoza in power for 42 years in Nicaragua.

Over the years, the Contras have broadened their base and softened their image, attracting respected politicians and even disillusioned ex-Sandinistas. And with hundreds of millions of dollars from Washington, they grew into a solid guerrilla army.

Bickering among the disparate elements in the alliance, however, has been almost constant, impairing the Contras' image and effectiveness. After several restructurings, the rebels currently go by the name Nicaraguan Resistance, though they are known most commonly as Contras, after the word "counter revolution" used by Nicaragua's leftist government to describe them.

There are six directors of the National Resistance, elected last May in Miami by an assembly representing anti-Sandinista economic, political and military organizations. Many exiled wealthy Nicaraguans make their home in Miami and it is a centre of opposition to the Sandinista government, in power in Nicaragua since July 1979.

The rebel leader with the most power and highest profile is Adolfo Calero, a portly former manager of the Coca-Cola bottling operation in Managua. He is the head of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, or FDN, which makes up about 75 percent of the Contra fighting force.

The Contras claim to have 18,000 men under arms, and say most of them are in Nicaragua after spending the better part of the war at base camps in Honduras. Contra units in recent months have been operating most heavily in the central province of Chontales and Zelaya in north-eastern Nicaragua.

The Sandinistas say the rebels have 6,000 fighters and that they have never taken a town, despite a Contra claim that they overran the

Infighting mars Contra cause



An unidentified Contra rebel, "They just cannot hack it on the battlefield." (APF)

northern community of Siuna in December.

President Reagan failed in his bid to have Congress approve \$36 million in new Contra aid, including 3.6 million dollars in lethal military aid. The White House contended that rejection of the request meant the demise of the rebels, who Reagan calls freedom fighters.

But Contra fighters have been heavily resupplied in recent months, and military observers, commenting privately, estimate they could carry on for a year with what they've got and what is still "in the pipeline."

The Contra leadership was rocked last year by the resignation of Arturo Cruz, a former Sandinista ambassador to the U.S., respected in Washington as a moderate. He quit after saying his push for democratic reform in the movement was thwarted by authoritarian elements.

Without mentioning names, he alluded to his longtime rival Calero and Calero's chief aide, Gen. Enrique Bermudez, a former National Guard officer and the military commander of the FDN.

The Contras were spotlighted last year during the congressional investigation into the diversion of profits to them from the Reagan administration's sale of arms to Iran. Contra leaders saw the publicity as a boon, citing Col. Oliver North's impassioned defence of their cause.

But documents presented at the hearings also described nasty infighting among rebel chiefs, and reports were aired alleging Contra involvement in drug smuggling and profiteering.

Robert Owen, a liaison between the Contras and the U.S. State Department, testified at the hearings. In a memo to North, he described those surrounding Calero as "not first-rate people: in fact they are liars and greedy and power-motivated."

Robert McFarlane, a former national security adviser to Reagan and a principal figure in the affair, described the Contra leadership as "incompetent. They just cannot hack it on the battlefield."

Because of congressional qualms, the Contras had to do without overt U.S. military aid for 2 1/2 years prior to the fall of 1986.

(Associated Press)

Zimbabwe eight years after independence

Live and let live has its problems



President Robert Mugabe. (Reuters)

NEARLY eight years after the end of Zimbabwe's war of independence, the bodies of victims are still being discovered — not in ones or twos, but in dozens and hundreds.

They are people said to have been killed by the security forces of Rhodesia's white minority government during the 16 years of black guerrilla struggle. The war took a heavy toll: 40,000 people are estimated to have died.

It would not be surprising if the discovery of more bodies caused racial rancour, especially because it is evident that many did not die in battle. Yet it strikes a visitor as a remarkable reflection of the interracial peace in Zimbabwe that the grisly evidence of mass murders is reported so soberly, and does not set off calls for revenge.

In December, for example, a report in Harare's daily newspaper was worded in these terms: "Poor peasants in Mashonaland Central, which covers most of the former 'Hurricane Operational Area' during the liberation struggle, are planning to reinstate hundreds of Zulu combatants buried in shafts and mass graves in the province."

Using the same temperate language, the report went on to say that the peasants were putting together their "meagre resources" to raise funds for proper burials.

The same approach is no doubt responsible for the continuing presence of the colonial past. Immediately after independence, statues were pulled down and a few street names in the centre of the capital, Harare, were changed. But most streets were left alone so that there are still visible reminders of the heroes of colonial rule. In the town of Mutare, on the eastern border, there is even a Jan Smuts Avenue, named after a South African white leader.

The tolerance of colonial history can also be seen across the road from the official residence of President Robert Mugabe: there is a large sign on an imposing driveway which says: "Royal Harare Golf Club."

And a bookshop in the town stocks *The Reluctant President*, the memoirs of Clifford Dupont, who was president of Rhodesia's illegal white regime, as well as the biography of one of most successful sanc-

tions-busters who sold tobacco in Mugabe has led the racial live-and-let-live policy. It doesn't necessarily mean much interracial mixing at the social level but in every day existence, relations between blacks and whites are generally relaxed.

The number of whites has dropped to a third of the 300,000

Benjamin Pogrand

who were there at the time of independence. They have seen no alteration in their luxurious life-style, with many owning imposing houses on large plots of land and with the real wages of their black domestic servants at about the same level as pre-independence.

ONE SIGN of creeping change, though, is that in the wealthy suburbs, anything from 10 to 35 per cent of homeowners are now blacks.

The infrastructure, whether electricity, water or roads, is well-maintained. A white professional man notes that, previously, white government officials often had poor qualifications but had extensive work experience; the blacks who have been taking over jobs from them often are highly qualified, with degrees earned at universities

abroad, but are having to gain experience on the job.

Whites still dominate commerce while the farms they own produce a high proportion of the country's food. But there is every indication that they pay a price for the good life they enjoy: they must not interfere too much in government; they take part in the government but they must not do so obtrusively and they must remember the fact of black majority rule.

In particular, they must remain as silent as everyone else about the darker sides of Zimbabwe: the carrying over, indeed the extension, of the arbitrary powers created by the previous white rulers and now used, it is whispered, for detentions which remain secret; the obedient newspapers, radio and television; the incidence of corruption.

Other problems are also gathering momentum. External debt, the modern curse of the developing world, is demanding ruinous interest payments and the pinch is being seen in the falling ability to buy needed goods from abroad.

Domestic shortages are seen in queues for bread. The shortage of wheat means that a greater proportion of corn meal is used — with the result that loaves of bread crumble easily and it is best not to cut them for a couple of days after baking. Staples like salt and soap are not always readily available.

Government spending is soaring with a civil service which has probably doubled since independence. The latest cabinet reshuffle in January doubles the number of ministers and deputies to a startling 50 — half the complement of the elected members of parliament. Vastly greater numbers of children are at school — but many cannot get jobs when they complete their education. Nor is there any coherent plan for dealing with the rising tide of unemployment.

On the other hand, there is no doubt that considerable energy and resources have had to be diverted into ending the violent dissent in the Ndebele area of the country. The unity achieved in December between Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo could contribute to a lessening of tension and a reduced need for draconian detention.

Silkworms influence U.S.-China relations

Jonathan Mirsky
London

TENSION BETWEEN Washington and Peking over Chinese arms sales to Iran increased recently when the Defence Department first revealed it had placed China on its list of "hostile nations" and then claimed it had been a mistake.

The Pentagon's claim that China had erroneously crept on to its "hostile" list may have concealed a warning from certain American military officials to Peking to stop selling weapons to Iran, especially Silk-worm missiles, which could sink an American ship patrolling the Persian Gulf.

Peking's reaction of hurt puzzlement has only temporarily diverted attention from the strain between the two countries over China's weapons sales to Washington's enemy in the Gulf war.

The Pentagon's embarrassing inclusion of the Chinese on a list of 30 countries, including the Soviet Union, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Vietnam came to light during a court case involving a naturalized citizen who had been denied access to classified documents. A Defence Department spokesman noted that while the U.S. did not consider China to be a terrorist nation "many of



A Silkworm guided missile shown in action at an unidentified location. (Reuters)

its interests obviously do not run parallel with ours."

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman observed: "We believe listing China as a hostile country contradicts the position which the U.S. government has stated officially and openly on many occasions."

The following day a Pentagon spokesman declared that China was regarded as a "friendly non-aligned country with which we seek an enduring military relationship," and regretted the error.

A senior State Department official dismissed the incident as "rubbish," adding "it certainly doesn't reflect our attitude to China." The Americans value their relationship with the Chinese, especially as Peking and Moscow draw closer together, and would like the weapons difficulty to be resolved before there is an ugly incident in the Gulf, involving an American vessel, to which there would be an angry public reaction.

The error may none the less have been a shot across Peking's bows. On the day that China's designation as "hostile" was disclosed, a Pentagon spokesman specifically linked it to the Silkworm. Sales to Iran of two types of the Chinese surface-to-surface missiles, now estimated by the Americans to number at least 100, have already led to the removal of the Chinese from a list of countries which can receive certain forms of advanced technology, especially computers, and to threats to Peking from the State Department that all military sales to China could be halted.

The issue is more than Silkworms. The Americans estimate that China supplies 60 per cent of all Iran's foreign arms purchases. But the Silkworms are the most dramatic weapon — despite being based on a 30-year-old Soviet design — and have already struck a Kuwaiti oil platform and a reflagged tanker in the Gulf.

In Peking last October Under Secretary of State Michael Armacost warned of dire consequences if an American sailor is killed by a Chinese-made missile. The Americans make no objection to substantial Chinese weapons sales to Iraq. "We don't want Iran to win this war," says one high official.

But despite direct confrontation between senior officials both in Washington and Peking, in which the Americans displayed intelligence photographs of Chinese ships leaving port carrying the missiles and later arriving in the Gulf, China continues to deny that it sells Silkworms directly to Iran.

Peking now concedes the possibility that the missiles may be reaching Iran through "third countries." Iran's ambassador to Peking has offered an additional explanation why there are Silkworms in his country: China has shown the Iranians how to build them.

(London Observer Service)

Spirit of Rosa lives in East Germany

John Dornberg
Munich



Rosa Luxemburg

Of the those who were detained, some were formally charged with "illegal rioting" and many were either freed or were deported to West Germany. The regime has also accused the East German Protestant Church of protecting troublemakers who "attempt to demean the reputation of the state."

Needless to say, Rosa Luxemburg, who always insisted there could never be socialism or communism without real democracy and freedom, would be turning in her grave if she knew, though it is certainly not the first time, and will hardly be the last, that she has been misused by the Communist powers that be in East Germany and elsewhere in the Soviet bloc.

More important is that the January 17 incident was but the latest in a series of clashes and confrontations between East German dissenters and the authorities. The previously most serious was in December when state security police raided the rectory of a Protestant church in East Berlin and arrested seven people found printing an unofficial environment and ecology bulletin. They were released, without being charged, only after days of candle-light human rights vigils around the church and strong pressure by the East German Protestant clergy.

In all cases it appears to have

been a matter of small, unorganized groups, with a variety of interests and causes, who are taking not only the spirit of Rosa Luxemburg but that of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's *glasnost* literally. It is a spirit to which East Germans, with their easy access to information through West German television, viewable and viewed by more than 80 per cent of them, are more exposed and susceptible than people in any other Soviet bloc country.

That *glasnost* and *perestroika* are not held in very high regard by the East German party leadership is by now axiomatic. More significant is that there seems to be a faction in the leadership that is even less enamoured with the Soviet "new thinking" than others. They are apparently ready to use ruthless repression and traditional police state measures to silence dissent. East Germans refer to them as the *beton-koepe* — "cement heads."

Most of the dissenters and dissidents are, in fact, not at all opposed to socialism or communism. They are merely critics, and becoming more critical by the day, of how it is being practised in East Germany. As such they pose a greater challenge to the regime's monopoly of power than the disgruntled East Germans who want to leave permanently for West Germany and will even brave arrest, or gunfire, at the Wall.

There is not going to be a mass uprising in East Germany, but there are certain to be more confrontations between the regime and dissenters who take Rosa Luxemburg, one of communism's icon figures, at her word.

Dangers of Soviet diplomacy

Adrian Hamilton
London

THE TROUBLE with the Americans in their dealings with the Soviets is that Washington still sees Russia as a monolith intent on ideological imperialism. It finds it difficult therefore to cope with individual initiatives to do with Russian national interest.

The trouble with Europe in its dealings with Moscow is that Europeans tend to see Russia as a nation rather than an ideology and therefore find it too easy to be seduced into bilateral traps.

Both sides of the Atlantic Alliance will need to watch out as Moscow cranks up a devastating flurry of diplomatic initiatives in the wake of its successful negotiation of an Intermediate Nuclear Force reduction. Determined to gain retreat with honour from Afghanistan, the Russians are now pressing hard with the prospect that it will withdraw this year if only the West stops arming the guerrillas.

Intent on building on the INF treaty, the Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has trooped round Germany and Spain in an effort to prevent the Europeans replacing intermediate weapons with new tactical ones.

Anxious to assert a central influence in the Middle East, Moscow is equally forcing the pace of an international conference on the Middle East and a UN replacement of Americans and British fleets in the Gulf.

No one should underestimate either the skill or the dangers inherent

in this diplomatic offensive. As any oil trader will tell you, the Russians are past masters at negotiation. As any diplomat will tell you, they are also the past masters of opportunism and the snuff of opposition divisions.

It is this that needs to concern the West. In the aftermath of the INF treaty in Washington, the Soviets have helped to create a climate of rising expectations of disarmament which they hope to climax in the May summit in Moscow with a treaty on intercontinental ballistic missiles.

What they are desperately anxious to do at the moment is to use this move first to help them make a dignified exit from Afghanistan and second to undermine Nato efforts to fill the gaps left by the INF agreement to withdraw all U.S. land-based medium- and short-range missiles from Europe.

The motives for this are perfectly understandable. Contrary to the criticisms from the right in the U.S. there is nothing particularly deceitful or ideological in what the Soviets are up to. Gorbachev wants to opt out of expensive obligations so he can concentrate on internal reform.

The danger for the West is that it will exacerbate its own divisions. As Shevardnadze has quickly sensed, the INF treaty has left the West

Germans deeply unhappy about their own exposure and the Spanish (and for that matter, the Dutch and Greeks) equally worried, from the other point of view, that the process of nuclear disarmament and the end to U.S. bases will not move fast enough.

So too with the Afghan question. Given the Russian desire to get out of Afghanistan and the Western desire to concentrate on the big issues of disarmament, the thought that it is now time to ditch the guerrillas and get ahead with peace is a seductive one.

It should be resisted. In the end, the question of Afghan's future is not a Western one, it is an internal one. No peace with honour is possible without the cooperation of the guerrillas that have fought for so long and they don't want a neat political consensus arrangement. They shouldn't be forced to take it.

So with disarmament questions. Weapon replacement and bases are matters for Europe and the Alliance. If the Allies are not agreed, then they should delay things until they can sort out their own views. To allow the Soviets to scratch away at the differences in the haste for progress is stupidity.

The INF treaty — though a good agreement in its way — was pushed through too rapidly for the West's own good. It would be a tragedy if we allowed ourselves to end up at sixes and sevens in the rush to the Moscow summit.

(London Observer Service)

מיתרעצת דערפערענע פון יידישן - טעאטער - מיט שלום-עליכס

שוער צו זיין א ייד - IT'S HARD TO BE A JEW

Directed and adapted by: Israel Beker
Music: Alexander Yampolski
Scenery and costumes: Adina Reich
Lighting: Judy Kupfermann
Participants (in alphabetical order):
Israel Beker, Jecha Gilsberg, Rafael Goldwasser, Jacob Halperin, Izhak Havis, Abraham Horowitz, Elhel Kovenski, Abraham Naimark, Lora Sahar-Ferber, Judith Yanai-Cederbaum.

Wed., Feb. 10, 8:30 p.m., Beit Yad Lebanim, Tel Aviv
Thur., Feb. 11, 8:30 p.m., Beit Yad Lebanim, Tel Aviv
Fri., Feb. 12, 8:30 p.m., David Cinema, Herzliya
Sat., Feb. 13, 8 p.m., Beit Yad Lebanim, Tel Aviv
Sun., Feb. 14, 8:30 p.m., Gerard Behar, Jerusalem

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שירה - סאטיר - סוב'עניס - סקולטיק

MIRI MALZ says the current Food Week is the biggest and best ever — and she should know. As head of an exhibition services agency that bears her name, she has organized the event since it was first initiated some 20 years ago.

The previous six exhibitions were held at the Tel Aviv Hilton, but this year's Food Week, which began yesterday and runs through Thursday (10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily) has moved to the more spacious city fair grounds with exhibition and convention facilities on the premises. Sources at the Israel Export Institute report that 100 local exhibitors are participating, and estimate that some 600 foreign buyers from 25 countries will be on hand to study the country's edible exports, view exhibits related to food production and research and development, and hear a series of lectures.

"In the past," Malz recalls, "the companies exhibiting were not big ones, and even the larger companies like Elite and Osem exhibited each type of product separately, so everything looked small. The Hilton was very convenient for the buyers who came from abroad, especially as many stayed at the hotel," but the industry expanded to such dimensions — "not so much in new companies but in the variety of products that many of the veteran companies now produce" — that there was a need for more space this year.

"The extra space at the fair grounds has enabled the exhibitors to invest more effort into arranging their products and from what I have seen, some of them have really put creativity in their work. In this respect, this should be one of the most beautiful food exhibitions we have seen in this country," Malz claims.

The chef and kitchen staff of the Gan Oran restaurant at the fair grounds were hired to prepare dishes according to the specifications of

the different food companies so that potential clients can sample them. Some companies that produce fast foods and TV dinners have installed microwave ovens in their booths so that visitors can taste test on the spot.

YAIR OFEK, director of the consumer goods division of the Export Institute, told *The Jerusalem Post* that, as at every Food Week, prizes will be awarded for the most attractively-packaged products. In addition, the institute will be making an award, in the name of the late Nathan Goldenberg of Marks & Spencer, to the individual or company

that has made the most outstanding contribution to the development of new techniques or products for the country's food industry.

The institute is organizing special tours for foreign buyers this week which will incorporate visits to various food plants, and holding two seminars on one of the topics of most interest in the industry: labels and brand names.

Ofek pointed out that there is a new trend among certain local food manufacturers to sell some or even most of their products under the labels of particular foreign buyers or supermarket chains, while others do not want to lose their individuality

and prefer to sell only under their own trade name.

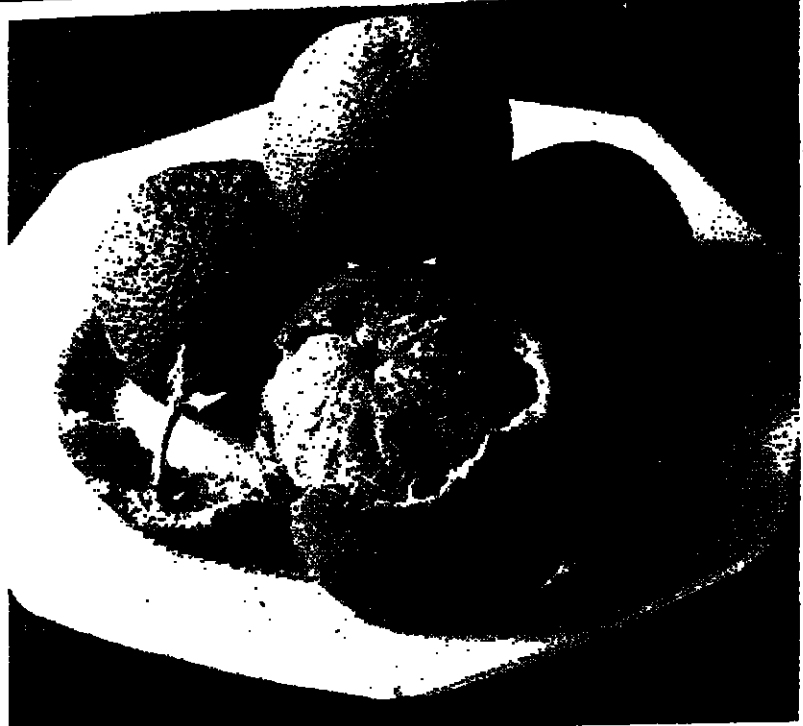
Food Week features only Israeli products, he noted: "We could have made some money and maybe even cut down on some of our costs if we had allowed foreign companies to participate. But we decided to continue to keep the distinct Israeli flavour of the exhibition."

He explained that the Export Institute was not "relying on miracles" but had been working hard for months, with the help of Israel's economic attaches overseas, to persuade people connected with the international food industry to attend. The institute had also been in contact with a number of food trade journalists from abroad.

Ofek also gave the following figures:

There are about 1,100 plants in Israel manufacturing, processing or packaging food products, and about 45,000 people are employed in the industry.

With regard to exports of fresh and processed food, about 65 per cent goes to European Community countries, 20 per cent to the U.S. (through the Free Trade Area agreement), and the remaining 15 per cent to the rest of the world.



Citrus is still a favourite but exotic produce also makes the grade.

The revolution in our fruit and salad bowls

Yitzhak Oked

DESPITE doldrums in the country's farming community due to heavy debts, curtailment of activities and minimal government help, it is heartening to discover that local ingenuity has continued to contribute to maximizing farm production and developing new products.

This is perhaps not surprising in light of the fact that Israel is among the world's largest per capita consumers of fruit and vegetables. In fact, the number of these appearing in the Israeli cornucopia in the last 40 years is quite astonishing, as a visit to the Agricultural Research Organization (ARO) at the Volcani Centre proves. While the effects of budget-slashing are felt at this Ministry of Agriculture institute in Rishon Le-Zion, creativity in developing tastier and more profitable crops still prevails.

We stopped by to see some of the latest developments at ARO and to hear from the experts about the country's produce preferences. Our first stop was at the offices of Prof. Oded Reuveni, head of the organization's Institute of Horticulture.

The fruit that has truly revolutionized eating habits in this country since its establishment, he says without hesitation, is the avocado. The institute's Prof. Hanan Oppenheimer began research on it some 50 years ago despite predictions that local cultivation of the avocado — a tropical or subtropical species which would have to be adapted to cold conditions — would be impossible. He continued with his research and after some 25 years, the first mass planting of avocados took place.

Research is still being carried out to develop species which will grow on tougher kinds of soils, produce higher yields per tree, and be more varied in taste, according to Reuveni.

Meanwhile, scientists and farmers are hoping to repeat the success of the avocado with another tropical-subtropical fruit, the mango. Until only several years ago, the mango had mostly been a "garden fruit" grown privately in homes. While scientists are still involved in developing mangoes which will be hardier, and tasty and attractive enough to attract European buyers, the fruit's growing season has been lengthened so that it is available locally from June through December. In addition, mangoes are now exported to Europe during the summer after countries in the northern hemisphere have stopped shipping them and before the mangoes from the southern hemisphere start to arrive.

Joining the mangoes on foreign fruit stands are the increasingly popular Israeli persimmons, also called the "Sharon" fruit, as well as locally-grown grapes. Reuveni notes. Researchers at ARO are "inventing" new sweeter, seedless grape varieties and improvements are also being made in other fruits like peaches, nectarines and apples.

The newest and most exotic fruits appearing on our shelves are papayas, kiwis, star-shaped carambolas, and lichees. The papaya, for one, has undergone a lot of changes due to ARO's tissue culture research, and can be propagated at an accelerated rate which is expected to encourage export.

In the "biblical fruits" category, Reuveni says figs and dates are being developed to suit the timing and tastes of foreign markets, and less fatty and oily olives are being produced in the laboratory as well. Researchers in the Rishon centre are also setting their sights on cultivating different types of berries — first among them, blueberries.

PROF. IRENA RYLSKI, head of the ARO's vegetable crop department, tells us that it is difficult to compare the situation "in our vegetable patch" today to that of a few decades ago.

"When I arrived in the country and at the institute about 30 years ago, Israelis were raising and eating only the basics — such as tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce and eggplants. Also, all or nearly all of the vegetables grown here then were from foreign stock. Israeli varieties were nearly nonexistent."

One of the greatest local breakthroughs in vegetable research, Rylski notes, occurred about 25 years ago when the founder and former head of her department, Dr. Yisrael Slonimski, started to grow vegetables in plastic sleeves. This, together with the concurrent development of Israeli varieties, both enabled farmers to grow vegetables nearly anywhere in the country and to bring vegetables to market at different times of the year because of climatic differences in those areas.

This also proved a boon to exports since the early-ripening varieties gave the farmers an edge on their foreign competitors. "There has been a revolution in their 'salad bowls' that Israelis haven't even noticed," says Rylski. "Today, if because of a crop disease or some other reason, there is a shortage of, say, tomatoes in the market and prices soar, there is a big outcry in the country. We have simply spoiled people! About 25 years ago, you couldn't get tomatoes all year long. Now, thanks to the efforts of scientists here and at other institutions, we have many types."

A few years back, Rylski's department also started work on cultivating new types of lettuce, and is now beginning research on local development of a unique vegetable from Mexico called the yam bean, similar to the potato.

CITRUS FRUITS are the stuff of one of the country's oldest agricultural branches — and one which unfortunately seems to be in a continuous state of crisis due to weather and other problems.

Yoram Weinberg, general manager of the Citrus Marketing Board (the government-appointed roof organization for all citrus harvesting and packaging companies which oversees activities on local and foreign markets), says the number of groves in the country is continuing to drop due to low profitability. Thanks to the cultivation of new varieties and more efficient growing methods, however, the actual quantities of fruit grown will not decrease but may even rise. The branch's goal is to grow citrus which will fetch higher prices on world markets, such as sweet grapefruits, red pomelos, and easy-peeling, juicy "Jaffarines."

"You know, 40 years ago we exported four types of citrus fruit. Three of them were oranges, one grapefruit. We did not have any decent packaging houses and the fruit was packed in small sheds in the orchards themselves. The boats that took the fruit to Europe were old and it took them more than 20 days to cross the Mediterranean."

At present, about 60 per cent of CMB's exports are oranges, 25 per cent grapefruits, 10 per cent "easy peelers," and five per cent other fruit. Agrexco exports all the rest of our fresh fruits and vegetables and is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. Eran Sorek, sales promotion and marketing research manager, says that the company has come a long way since it was first established to deal with the problems of overproduction in the local market. Today much of its produce — the big successes are tomatoes and avocados — is intended initially for export, and only when there are surpluses or problems in Europe do Israelis enjoy it.

Sorek says that Agrexco's sales turnover per year now reaches over \$350 m. "The name of the game out there is competition with a capital 'C.' If you want to play the game there, you have to learn how to compete and remain in business."

"Our main competitors in Europe today are Spain, Italy and a few other countries that are raising some of the produce that we grow in greenhouses. Because they are closer to Europe, they have an advantage over us which is worth between \$100 and \$200 per ton, depending on the produce. This amount can either make or break us; it can bring us to a decision not to export a certain produce for example," Sorek explains.

"Everything that we did that was new in the past has by now been copied by most of our competitors. So our problem is to try and be a few years ahead. On paper it sounds nice, but in reality it is nearly impossible to accomplish."

Showing off our edible exports

Israel's Food Week exhibition is bigger and better than ever, Yitzhak Oked reports.

Where cleanliness comes first



Quality control testing shows whether hygienic standards are being maintained.

To solve this problem, Sharon's institute has undertaken various projects such as studying the conditions in the citrus- and tomato-processing industries, searching for more suitable packaging materials, and improving quality-control methods.

The institute is in charge of implementing inspection laws for fresh fruit and vegetables intended for export, and its food technologists conduct spot checks of samples of finished products for careful analysis in their laboratories.

The institute also lays down work procedures for various branches of the industry and is responsible for supervising the use of food additives and colourings. It checks products for the presence of pesticides or other chemicals which must not exceed internationally-determined levels.

In general, Sharon says, local food manufacturers are interested in the institute's work and are keen to implement its recommendations since they make exporting easier. In order to obtain the mandatory Ministry of Health certification of approval, a plant must meet certain standards of hygiene; produce a quality assurance manual prepared by itself and the institute; have an equipped laboratory which analyses products; employ qualified technical staff; and only export products which conform to Israeli and the importing country's standards. In addition, all laboratory records must be made available to the ministry.

The institute of quality control runs a computerized information service which keeps exporters up-to-date on food hygiene-related regula-

tions and standards in various countries. It also advises exporters regarding label specifications and inspection requirements, and carries out spot checks.

IT IS THE Ministry of Health's duty to ensure that the food we eat in this country is clean and prepared under hygienic conditions. Enforcing the law is engineer Daniel Reichman, director of the food control department at the ministry. When it was established in 1968, the department's main objective was to serve as an umbrella for all organizations dealing with food. Its main responsibilities today are to initiate and enforce new regulations and train company employees to ensure that they are observed. It also controls the quality of food sold locally, i.e., ingredients, labelling, weight, and the

way goods are transported and stored.

His staff not only inspects products, says Reichman, but also checks the standards of hygiene in the food plants, which have to renew their Health Ministry licences annually.

Reichman admits that his job is not an easy one since he has a limited number of employees, the regulations are quite strict, and over 2,000 plants apply for licences annually. Why so many? He believes the reason is the strictness of the regulations, citing as an example the fact that if someone wants to sell sugar, buys a 20-kilo sack and repacks it into one-kilo bags, they need a licence.

His staff make about 12,000 visits per year to factories and supermarkets all over the country, taking samples to check weight, chemical content, etc. Some 600 to 700 companies were taken to court last year for food law offences, as opposed to 550 cases in 1986.

Looking at cases of labelling violations, it was astonishing to learn that there were only 36 cases last year. The total amount of fines paid was NIS 16,000. But, Reichman asked, how many times do people send in a formal complaint about improper labelling? His department's success, he said, depends on the number of citizens who complain and are willing to lose a half-day or more by testifying at court.

Reichman believes that the situation could be partly remedied if more people volunteered to be food inspectors, particularly active or retired lawyers, and if special courts, similar to traffic offence courts, were established to deal with food law violations. Another aspect of traffic laws he'd like the authorities to adopt is fining less serious violators without taking them to court. Y.O.

Ins and outs of food

VETERAN Israelis still remember the period of austerity just after the state was established when there was not enough food to go around and basic items like eggs, margarine, milk products and meats were in very short supply.

Remembering that time, one can't help but be struck by the variety and abundance of foods overflowing our local supermarket shelves today. Indeed, the state — and its food industry — have come quite a long way in the last four decades.

Yoram Levy, director of the Food Division of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, believes that one of the greatest achievements of the industry has been its change in orientation from depending primarily on imports to maintaining a balanced trade figure. Today, the country exports almost the same amount of food that it imports — about \$1 billion worth in each direction.

Of the \$1b. in foodstuffs imported, some 70 per cent comprise "raw products" such as livestock fodder (about \$250 million), wheat (\$200 m.) and soy beans (\$135 m.). The exports can be divided into two main categories: fresh fruit and vegetables (about \$600 m.), and processed foods (about \$400 m.), of which more than half is processed citrus products while meat products, in second place, total \$58 m., and non-fresh fruits and vegetables, \$20 m. each).

Total production in the processed food sector reached about \$4 b. last year, according to Levy. Meat products comprise about 27 per cent of total processed food production, then come bread, pastry and other flour products (17 per cent), dairy products (16 per cent), sweets (eight per cent), processed vegetables and fruits (seven per cent), and wines and spirits (five per cent).

Levy is optimistic regarding improvement in both the quantity and quality of foods produced for local consumption and export.

"I believe that we are now beginning to witness a revolution that will not only improve the state of the industry in general, but will enable us to increase exports. Farmers are starting to grow produce especially for industry, which till now mainly had to accept blemished fruits and vegetables. We have already seen the first signs of this in the frozen foods sector, which now receives most of its produce from farmers who grow the various items according to strict specifications."

Levy also mentions the cultivation, now taking place in an experimental framework, of apples and

citrus fruits for industry as a potentially profitable venture; these items do not require the spraying and special labour-intensive harvesting and sorting work necessary for consumer-oriented produce.

"Take, for example, tomatoes. For a number of years, farmers have been growing tomatoes specially for industry; they have special qualities that make them suitable for this purpose and are planted in such a way that they can be easily harvested en masse mechanically."

"The only problem with this is that when fresh, ripe tomatoes are scarce and the prices start to skyrocket, the 'industrial' tomatoes tend to be sent to the market where they fetch a higher price. The positive side of this is that the existence of this 'reservoir' of fresh tomatoes means that the Ministry of Agriculture can ensure that the prices of tomatoes will not go up too much and will not contribute to a rise in the cost of living index. Of course, the processing plant managers are usually not too happy about this situation since they sometimes receive fewer tomatoes than anticipated."

MINISTRY of Trade officials are disappointed by the fact that food exports to the American market have generally not grown according to expectations. Objective factors such as the weakening of the dollar are partly to blame. Levy notes, for encouraging Israeli exporters to increase their sales to Europe instead of trying to penetrate the U.S. market. Some companies are concentrating now on France and Germany.

Today in the industry, sources confirm, there seems to be a trend towards moving away from the use of brand names and switching to what is termed "private labels." This means that manufacturers producing goods under the name of a particular supermarket chain lose their own "identities" per se, but attract buyers by selling the private-label product for about 20 to 30 per cent less than the brand-name item.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade's food division aids industry in a variety of ways, including working with the Export Institute to boost sales abroad, promoting participation in different specialized shows and exhibitions, taking part in financing research and development projects, and helping industrialists receive low-interest loans for authorized plants and grants (sometimes covering up to 40 per cent of the total cost) for erecting such plants. Y.O.

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But '88 outlook is clouded

For Carmel, the sparkle returns to wine making

By KEN SCHACHTER

For The Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV - If aging is usually a necessary and desirable ingredient in winemaking, it certainly wasn't for the Carmel Mizrahi Cooperative a few years ago.

The hyperinflation of the early 1980s, which came to an abrupt halt in July 1985 with the implementation of the Economic Stabilization Programme, took a heavy toll on Israel's largest winemaker. While other companies sought to rush their stocks to consumers before they were devalued by inflation, the wineries were hamstrung.

"In this industry, you can't do a rapid turnover of stocks," says Avraham Ben-Moshe, who came to Carmel after stints in the auto and retail industries. "Part of your products you improve by aging. There's no rapid turnover."

With inflation running at more than 300 per cent a year, Ben-Moshe says the cost of keeping stock was "terrible."

During the same period, Carmel cut the price it paid its cooperative members for grapes as a way of making up for high grape prices in the preceding years. In 1985, the grape growers received \$50 a metric ton on the benchmark Carignan variety. At that price, growers weren't even recouping their costs and since Carmel processes 70 per cent of all Israeli grapes, the squeeze drove many growers out of business.

In addition, Carmel's organization itself was in disarray, with a turnover of four general managers within eight years.

Since those years, when its financial footing became increasingly precarious, Carmel, and its member

growers, have managed a neat turnaround.

In 1986, when Ben-Moshe joined the cooperative, those growers who managed to survive the shakeout received \$210 a ton for Carignan grapes. Production increased 30 per cent in the 1987 vintage and the price was \$250 a ton, nearly twice the Agriculture Ministry's estimate of the costs of production.

Carmel, meanwhile, sought to widen its product line and upgrade its marketing approach. In a joint venture with Italy's Bosca company, Carmel introduced the popular Peach Bosca sparkling wine and using French knowhow developed Dominion brandy, a product that halted the erosion in the cooperative's brandy sales.

The cooperative recently disbanded its marketing units in the U.S. and Britain, transferring those duties to the Seagrams Corp. and Carmel Food (an independent company), respectively.

Ben-Moshe says that unlike a marketing arm attached to the company, Seagrams exerts pressure to improve quality and packaging, resulting in a "better exchange of views."

Although Carmel wines are exported to 40 countries, Ben-Moshe acknowledges that the primary markets remain the Jewish communities of the U.S., South Africa and Britain.

To shore up the financial side, a year ago Carmel received \$6 million in long-term government loans at 8 per cent linked to the cost-of-living index, and price controls were lifted on some products.

These conspired to boost the cooperative's bottom line. Although

Wine vats at Zichron Ya'acov (Israel Talby)

profit figures aren't released, 1987 sales increased \$10m. to \$36m. Exports, accounting for 72 per cent of Israel's wine sold abroad, rose almost 30 per cent to \$3.5m.

This year is shaping up as uncertain, Ben-Moshe says, particularly in the local market. Domestic consumption will remain "static," he predicts, since unrest in the territories is taking a toll on tourism. "When we have tourists from Europe, they're good consumers," he says. A tourism downturn, he estimates, could result in a drop of 2-3 per cent in domestic consumption. On the positive side, exports are forecast to increase at least 15 per cent.

Although better times have on the whole returned to Israeli winemaking, some key items remain on Carmel's agenda. The company is seeking government aid to defray some of the \$6m. it wants to invest to

modernize its wineries in Rishon Le-Zion and Zichron Ya'acov. The company also wants government protection from countries that it charges of dumping wines and liquors at subsidized prices. The list of countries ranges from France and Italy to Hungary and Romania.

South Africa, which has huge grape surpluses because of the anti-apartheid boycott, has turned its attention to the Israeli market.

Ben-Moshe doesn't express too much concern about these developments. Carmel, he notes, has weathered far more serious setbacks before in its long history. Some 80 per cent of its pre-World War II production was sold to the Jewish communities of Eastern Europe. When those communities were destroyed, the cooperative turned to the domestic market. Now sales are 80 per cent local and 20 per cent foreign.

BANKING ON IT/Pinhas Landau

Bad cheques: Why no one cares

In last week's column we noted the way in which the number of restricted accounts has shot up over the last couple of years. Restricted accounts stem, by their legal definition, from cheques being returned, or "bounced," to use the common phrase. The staggering rise in the number of customers whose accounts have been restricted, from 16,500 at the end of 1985, to over 40,000 today, should tell its own story.

However, the Bank of Israel would prefer to play down the full horror of these figures. According to Moti Fein, head of the unit in charge of overseeing the implementation of the "Law of Cheques Without Cover," as the 1981 Banking Law is termed, a good part of the swelling numbers reflect better enforcement, not worse payment reliability.

Fein told *The Jerusalem Post* that the banks, both for their own reasons and as a result of pressure from the examiner of banks department to which he belongs, have improved their reporting and response techniques. Nevertheless, Fein agrees that this is only a partial explanation, and there is no doubt that the problem of bouncing cheques is worsening.

The commercial banks, for their part, put on a

those customers who break the rule or else it will end up facing total chaos.

But the branch manager and his staff see things differently. To them the problem is not an overall policy issue, but whether to restrict Mr. Cohen's account, or Levy and Co's, or some other real person with whom they have built up a relationship over period of years, and whom they see almost every day.

Rather than wreck this relationship, the branch staff will often connive with the customer against their own head office and the regulations. This involves not so much breaking the law as bending it. On way of doing this is simply to warn the customer that a cheque or cheques have no cover, and wait until he provides some. Another is to return the cheque under a different pretext, such as a technical fault regarding the date or signature, or say that something on it was unclear.

There are numerous reports of banks having told their customers to cancel the cheque in question before they bounce it, in the belief that this will prevent that cheque entering the count of 10 bounced cheques after which the account becomes restricted.

Fein and his men, and the bankers in the Tel Aviv head offices, all know that this belief is false, because a cheque that would have bounced if it had been presented should be counted, but the branches turn a blind eye. This practice also casts grave doubt on Fein's claim that better reporting has made the statistics seem worse than the situation really is. There seems to be a contrary trend that results in undercounting and makes the numbers understate the full score.

The other main reason that the banks are not prepared to raise a hue and cry about the blight of bouncing cheques is because the problem forces retailers and consumers to make greater use of credit cards, which the banks are trying to push as hard as they can. Every transaction made with a credit card instead of a cheque is at one and the same time higher income to the bank, through the card-issuing company that it owns, and lower expenses for its cheque-processing unit. Small wonder then, that they don't mind bearing the cost of the burgeoning number of restricted accounts for the longer-term benefits of getting everyone used to plastic money.

But the bad cheque cuts both ways. Although it has undoubtedly boosted the use of plastic cards, it has also done wonders for cash. This is particularly so in the context of the major blows dealt to commerce in the occupied territories by the riots. Huge numbers of cheques to and from Arab merchants have been orphaned from the resources needed to cover them, while the Israeli banking presence in the territories is being cut back.

The short- and long-term consequences of these developments will be to force much of any future commercial activity back into the age of cash and carry. Even for internal Israeli commerce, though, the plague of bad cheques is getting out of hand. The people who are really worried about it are the merchants' roof organization, the Association of Chambers of Commerce, although interestingly enough not consumer organizations.

(Second in a series)

It's official, British travel reps will hold parley here

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) has officially decided to keep to its plans to hold its annual convention in Israel at the end of the year, a move that could be a big boost to Israeli tourism.

ABTA President Jack Smith yesterday telephoned from London to Tourism Minister Avraham Shari in Jerusalem to convey the news, following a visit to Israel last week

by a delegation to assess the security situation. The ABTA had second thoughts about holding the convention here after disturbances broke out in the territories in December.

The delegation was satisfied with what it saw and indicated before departing for home that it would recommend that the ABTA go ahead with plans to bring 3,500 British travel agents to Jerusalem in November.

Meanwhile, local travel agents

dealing with incoming tourism, yesterday told *The Jerusalem Post* that although there have been some cancellations of bookings for the year ahead, they were not as heavy as anticipated. Tourists who had planned to come here during February and March and had paid in advance, went ahead with their plans rather than lose money, which was not refundable.

The projections for April are that hotels will generally be full, due to huge overbookings for Pessah and Israel Independence Day celebrations. The cancellations will do no more at this stage than alleviate the pressure, said several tourism agents.

Hoteliers said they have had sporadic cancellations, but nothing really out of the ordinary for this time of year. What worries them is the absence of additional bookings. In some cases, days go by without a single new reservation, many said.

Food makers show off their wares

By JUDY MALTZ

For The Jerusalem Post

The profitability of food industry exports has not suffered as much as in other sectors because Western Europe, where currencies have been strengthening against the shekel, takes a considerable share of the sector's output. Industry and Trade Minister Director-General Yoram Blizovsky said yesterday to mark the opening of Israel Food Week.

More than 600 buyers and visitors from around the world were present for the opening of the triennial exhibit at the Tel Aviv Fair Grounds. A wide assortment of canned and frozen goods, fresh agricultural produce, breads, sweets, baked goods, fruit drinks and wines were displayed and distributed among the guests for taste-testing by 100 Israeli companies, participating in the exhibition, sponsored by the Export Institute.

Blizovsky told a press conference

that 1987 was the first year in which Israeli exports of fresh agricultural produce had exceeded the country's imports of processed foods. He predicted that by 1990 processed-food exports would exceed exports of fresh farm produce.

The value of Israel's processed-food exports increased 27 per cent in 1987 to \$425 million and are expected to approach \$500m. this year, he said. Citrus products continue to be the leading sector of the industry, accounting for \$235 m. in overseas sales last year.

According to Export Institute officials, the largest contingent of buyers close to 100 - came from Britain. Visitors from the Far East and Eastern Europe were also evident among the crowds yesterday.

Gal Proper, chairman of the Export Institute, said the "prime objective" of the exhibition was not to win orders from abroad, but to display

the capabilities of the local industry.

On that account, Blizovsky emphasized that if Israeli producers were interested in improving their competitive edge abroad, they would have to adopt more sophisticated technologies and rely less on cheap labour. Better packaging and design, he said, were also critical.

At the official opening ceremony, Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon, said: "We have many problems here, and we are in the headlines everyday. But Israel is capable of beautiful things as well, and this is part of them."

What Sharon neglected to mention was that the recent unrest in the region had, in fact, affected participation in Food Week. Baruch Schaeffer, the Israeli economic attaché in Western Germany, said 20 of the 70 West German buyers who had originally planned to attend the exhibition, cancelled out in the past few weeks.



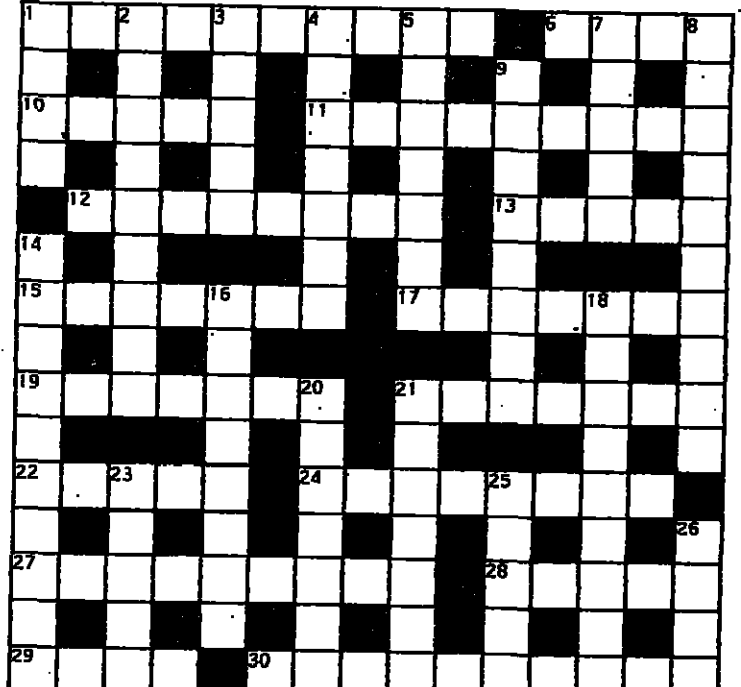
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Final instructions for those who want a final shout (4,6)
- 6 The fellow has some cheek (4)
- 10 Traditional English business (5)
- 11 Mr Chips was once a very great painter (3,6)
- 12 Young Stanley has reasonable grounds for believing Lady Hester can be found (8)
- 13 Patrick is in a bad temper (5)
- 15 Dashing young man—and heroic too (7)
- 17 Turn informer about a pub that is breaking the law (7)
- 19 Utter a cry of horror at demand by former spouse (7)
- 21 Prescribe what to do with immature wine (3,4)
- 22 Paper which contains a variety of items (5)

DOWN

- 2 Try first to become a writer of prose (8)
- 3 It may give you a lift out to car sale (5)
- 28 The person who tells is a snake in the grass (5)
- 29 The burden of the shepherd's cry when they saw the star in the East? (4)
- 30 Stated arrogantly that God's made it by design (10)
- 1 Not quick therefore not punctual (4)
- 2 He thinks he knows everything about fashionable lace manufacture (5,4)
- 3 Canoe wrecked in a vast sea (5)
- 4 What members of the parachute regiment do if they can't finish the course? (4,3)



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Picked, 4 Ortel, 8 Trent, 9 Lasting, 10 Trident, 11 Smut, 12 Hem, 14 Bent, 15 Alps, 18 Yen, 21 Inch, 23 Enraged, 25 Diamond, 26 Aweel, 27 Melon, 28 Lesser, DOWN: 1 Potato, 2 Chemise, 3 Entrally, 4 Oast, 5 Ilium, 6 Legato, 7 Sloth, 13 Marriage, 16 Pogues, 17 Dindem, 19 Needy, 20 Editor, 22 Crawl, 24 Boon.

ACROSS: 1 Picked, 4 Ortel, 8 Trent, 9 Lasting, 10 Trident, 11 Smut, 12 Hem, 14 Bent, 15 Alps, 18 Yen, 21 Inch, 23 Enraged, 25 Diamond, 26 Aweel, 27 Melon, 28 Lesser, DOWN: 1 Potato, 2 Chemise, 3 Entrally, 4 Oast, 5 Ilium, 6 Legato, 7 Sloth, 13 Marriage, 16 Pogues, 17 Dindem, 19 Needy, 20 Editor, 22 Crawl, 24 Boon.

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QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Lever (7)
- 5 Theme open (5)
- 8 Skilful (5)
- 9 Indecent (7)
- 10 Dogs' disease (5)
- 12 Montrow (3)
- 13 Talkative (6)
- 14 Elevated (6)
- 17 Yorkshire river (3)
- 18 Song to one's love (9)
- 20 Expression of regret (7)
- 23 Praise (6)
- 24 Pulled (7)

DOWN

- 1 Kise (5)
- 2 Insect (3)
- 3 Beech (7)
- 4 Acting company (6)
- 5 Puzzle (6)
- 6 Regarded as perfect (9)
- 7 Gemstone (7)
- 11 Whipping-boy (9)
- 12 Campaign (7)
- 15 Memory loss (7)
- 16 Baked earnestly (8)
- 18 Backless seat (6)
- 19 Terror (5)
- 22 Tatter (3)

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Dan Region 781111 Patah Tikva 923111
Eilat 72333 Rehovot 461333
Hadera 922233 Rishon LeZion 942333
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REPORT SUSPICIOUS OBJECTS

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MARKET PLACE

Variable current

Yesterday the variable-price trading system proved its worth. Most of the system's critics have been so busy belying about it and everything else, as the share market got shot to pieces, that they didn't quite grasp what happened. So we will highlight the great event.

In the morning, the shares traded on the variable price system were subjected to another bout of heavy selling and fell between 5 and 7 percent. The rest of the market took its cue from this inauspicious start and carried on Sunday's dive.

But the 25 shares that trade on a continuous basis - meaning that their price varies from trade to trade - decided that things had gone far enough. Most of them turned round and started climbing, so that by the end of the session they had regained most of the morning's losses.

One of them, Israel Petrochemicals, even turned the morning's 5 percent loss into a 0.5 percent gain. Others such as Discount Investment and Clal Israel shaved the opening 7 percent slump to a mere 1 percent by the close.

Another feature of the system was also demonstrated in the same session. Although most shares improved from the morning to the afternoon, as noted, some prices actually fell further - such as Haasneh, which "improved" on a 5.25 percent morning drop to wind up 8.5 percent down on the day.

In other words, the system showed that it can provide the possibility of intra-day trend changes, and not all the shares included in it go the same direction at one time.

Beyond that, of course, yesterday's session was important for a number of other developments. Prices rose in most of the components of the 25-share list, thereby proving that in Tel Aviv such a thing is still possible. There is a reasonable likelihood, on the basis of yesterday's performance, that today will witness a long-overdue technical reaction.

Overall, though, prices were still down, for the sixth successive day. Whether a day or two of bounce will suffice to stabilize the market remains very much to be seen. Confidence is as shattered as it has ever been, and what most traders would like to see is a technical market emerging after the initial rebound to the falls. "If we shoot up 30 percent in no time then we'll find ourselves back at this level soon after," said one fund manager yesterday.

Just how bad things have become may be gauged from the fact that the selling yesterday spread to the bond market - as many had predicted would occur sooner or later. This should be intolerable to the government, since if bonds turn soft the chances of recycling NIS 18 billion will be significantly dented.

Like it or not, there exists an interlinking between the various markets that make up the capital market. A rally in the share market now would take the pressure off bonds as well as shares, and may therefore be just in the nick of time.

In any event, assuming the technical reaction does come now, the next main events to look for in terms of influencing the share market are macroeconomic. Sheshinski is almost done, and his shadow will soon be lifted. Meanwhile, Nissim and Kassar are working out a package deal to see them and us through this year. What's left of the share market no doubt wishes them well.

TO SAIL

(Continued from Page One)

Further have been held in senior government circles in recent days. The talks have focused on ways to stop the PLO ship in mid-sea and on ways of limiting the expected damage to Israel's image abroad.

Prime Minister Shamir said last night that the planned voyage of the ship constituted a "hostile act against Israel."

Four Palestinian activists who were expelled from the West Bank last month left Beirut yesterday to join the return ship, it was reported in Athens last night.

PLO spokesman Abu Sarif said that many priests and rabbis would come to the Greek capital to sail with the deportees. He also said that some representatives from Jewish organizations would participate.

Abu Sarif said several U.S. congressional aides had asked to join the trip as observers and would be named at a later stage.

Also named as planning to make the voyage were Bishop Jacques Gaillot of Evreux, France, British Socialist politician Lord Christopher Mayhew and an unspecified number of Israelis.

Citizens Rights Movement MK Yossi Sarid yesterday challenged Arafat to board the ship. (Compiled from reports by Victor Eliezer in Athens, Menachem Shalev and Dvora Getzler in Jerusalem, and agencies.)

Housekeeper

wanted in Herzliya Pithul. Sleep-in. Call 03-701154, morning hours.

Recession fears

January imports off from month earlier

By AVI TEMKIN

Post Economic Reporter
Merchandise imports in January totalled \$959 million, an 8 percent drop from the previous month but 14.5 percent higher than the average for October and November, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

The drop from December levels isn't significant, the bureau noted, because December imports had been exceptionally high. This was apparently caused by the fears of devaluation prevalent at the time and by the approaching end of the tax year. Now, some observers point to the growing fears of an economic slowdown that have developed, which could have prompted a decline in imports.

Imports of raw materials and pro-

duction inputs, excluding fuel and diamonds, totalled some \$480m., down 7.5 percent from December, but still 12 percent higher than the average for October and November.

Imports of investment goods totalled \$171m., 16 percent less than in December. Imports of diamonds came to \$166m., compared with an average of about \$175m. for the second half of 1987. Imports of fuel, however, were sharply lower, at \$30m. last month, compared with a monthly average of \$100m. for the second half of last year.

Imports of consumer goods totalled \$136m., some 18 percent higher than their level for December, but almost unchanged from the average for October and November, the bureau said.

Citrus board cited for 'monopoly practices'

By JUDY MALTZ

For The Jerusalem Post
Close to 1,000 citrus growers are meeting tomorrow to protest what they term the "monopolistic practices" of the Citrus Marketing Board.

Moshe Bock, who heads the group that recently broke away from the Organization of Citrus Growers, said yesterday that because of the archaic procedures governing the sale, marketing and pricing of citrus in Israel, farmers are no longer making money. As a result, they have been forced to reduce acreage over 20 percent in the past five years.

"The board operates like a Mafia," he charged. "It has not even settled its accounts with us yet for the 1986/87 season, which was over last May."

Bock complained that growers were forced to hand over their crop to the board without receiving any financial commitment from the board and without any minimum prices being set.

While oranges were fetching an average of NIS 1.30 per kilo in the

supermarkets these days, he said, only 30 acent of this was coming back to the farmers.

Bock said his group would like to see another two or three marketing agencies set up in Israel to increase competition.

Responding to these demands, Yoram Weinberg, the board's managing director, told The Jerusalem Post that the farmers would be well advised to stop wasting their energies on these matters and concentrate instead on improving the quality of their produce and increasing their volume of exports.

He said the farmers would not gain if the prices for their fruits were set in advance because they would be much lower than the ones they are getting under the existing procedures.

Citrus exports as of February 15, which is the halfway mark for the season, were in line with preliminary forecasts, Weinberg said. He forecast that Israel would export 39 million crates of oranges this season, worth \$210 million. Export revenues for the sector totalled \$199m. last year.

Workers call for probe of Tadiran

By JEFF BLACK and JUDY MALTZ

Post Economic Staff
Workers at Tadiran Ltd.'s troubled communications division charged yesterday that the company was sub-contracting work to concerns owned by former Tadiran managers while dismissing its own employees for lack of work.

The accusation came in an appeal by the works committee to Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kassar to set up a commission of inquiry into "the fiasco" that have led to Tadiran's troubles. They called for Managing Director Yigal Ne'eman's resignation.

"Tadiran claims there is no work and workers have to be fired, but at the same time it is hiring out work to sub-contractors," Adi Avraham, a member of the works committee said last night.

But a management source told The Jerusalem Post last night that the charges were "unfounded" and said it was "beneath [us] to respond to such nonsense."

Last week management issued 350 dismissal notices at the communications division plant in Holon, which produces equipment mainly for military applications, but the layoffs were quickly rescinded after workers ransacked management offices. Subsequently, management and workers agreed to begin negotiations over the dismissals.

But Avraham maintained the negotiations had not got off the ground. He charged that the company was trying to create the impression that the only topic under discussion was the size of the compensation to dismissed workers but that the workers were questioning whether the dismissals were needed at all.

The workers insist that Tadiran's problems stem from bad management and inflated executive salaries. In their letter to Kassar, the works committee also cited wasteful spending on luxury buildings, a \$17 million inventory of obsolete products and the hiring of foreign workers.

Avraham also charged that management was pressuring workers into stopping their public campaign against the dismissal plans and had issued complaints to the police against some of the workers for their part in last week's outburst.

Labour woes send London shares lower

LONDON (Reuters) - Strikes in British industry and fears that British interest rates may be headed higher sent London share prices down a sharp 48 points, or 2.75 percent, to 1689.8 at mid-afternoon yesterday.

Earlier, the dollar appeared in Europe just above 1.705 Deutschmarks, its strongest in 12 weeks, but drifted lower on profit-taking. It finished at 1.6995 marks and 128.9 yen, off from the day's high of 129.12.

The dollar's early strength partly reflected hopes that U.S. trade figures for December, due out on Friday, would show America's trade deficit continuing to narrow. Later in the day the hopes apparently dissipated.

In London, yesterday's drop in the Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100-share index brought the market below 1700 points for the first time since December 16 and left it down more than 100 points in a week.

Dealers blamed fears that British interest rates are set to move higher and worries about a resurgence of militancy among British workers. The industrial unrest was likely to discourage foreign investors from putting their money into the market.

Auto workers at British Ford began their first national pay strike in 10 years yesterday. Some supervisory staff in the nation's coalmines and cross-channel ferry crews were also striking.

Bank base lending rates were put up by half a percentage point to 9 percent last week to curb a consumer spending boom which has resulted in a surge of imports. London brokers said the market fears a further rise soon.

In addition, dealers were particularly depressed because institutional liquidity is currently at a high level and there is potential for a rally. "This market is sick," one dealer said. "We've been looking for direction and I'm afraid we've found it - downwards."

'Arnona' freeze is called for

Post Economic Reporter

Delegations from the country's Chambers of Commerce, self-employed associations and consumer groups came yesterday to the Knesset Finance Committee to plead for a complete freeze in municipal taxes (arnona).

Under a proposal introduced into the Knesset by the Treasury and the Interior Ministry municipal taxes would be frozen during 1988, except for those municipalities that receive the approval of both ministries for a hike. The delegations told the committee yesterday that this last clause could serve as a loophole to raise the taxes, despite the Treasury's declared intentions.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bruno: Rates on short-term loans still high

Bank of Israel Governor Michael Bruno yesterday admitted that short-term interest rates on loans and overdrafts had failed so far to drop, despite efforts by the central bank. He expressed hope, however, it would happen soon.

Speaking at the Ashkelon Economic Club, Bruno said the high interest rates were not responsible for the current hardships in the economy. He pointed to agriculture, where poor investment decisions were behind the sector's current troubles.

The governor said the central bank had recently implemented a more liberal monetary policy, which will increase the supply of credit to the private sector. This was possible thanks to the balanced government budget and the drop in borrowing by the government, he said.

(Avi Temkin)

Oil reform delay

Energy Minister Moshe Shahal's energy reform plan, which was supposed to go into effect early this month, has again been postponed, this time to February 21.

The deregulation plan has been postponed several times since the idea was first offered more than a year ago.

The Energy Ministry prefers to reach an agreement with the three fuel companies and the oil refineries, all of which oppose the plan, rather than force them to go along with it by court order.

Pri Ze assets sold

Sankol Ltd., a Haifa Bay-based producer of canned fruits and vegetables, said Sunday it had purchased the equipment and citrus quota belonging to the defunct Pri Ze Ltd. fruit processing plant.

The company told the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange it had paid \$1.8 million in cash for the equipment and citrus rights, with the money coming from loans and cash on hand. The deal, arranged through the Pri Ze liquidator, lawyer Lipa Meir, still requires court approval. Trading in Sankol shares, suspended yesterday by Tase officials, was scheduled to resume today.

Meir was unable to sell the factory intact, which would have saved the jobs of about 180 workers. Pri Ze ran up debts of about \$20m. before it was closed.

Damaged fruit

Thousands of tons of fruit have prematurely fallen off their trees because of the exceptionally stormy weather suffered in recent weeks.

Zvi Harmoni, head of the Insurance Fund for Natural Risks, said he received over 400 complaints in just two days but that it was still too early

to estimate the value of losses involved. "It has been years since we have experienced anything like this," Harmoni said.

Those particularly hard hit by the strong winds were the berry and melon farmers.

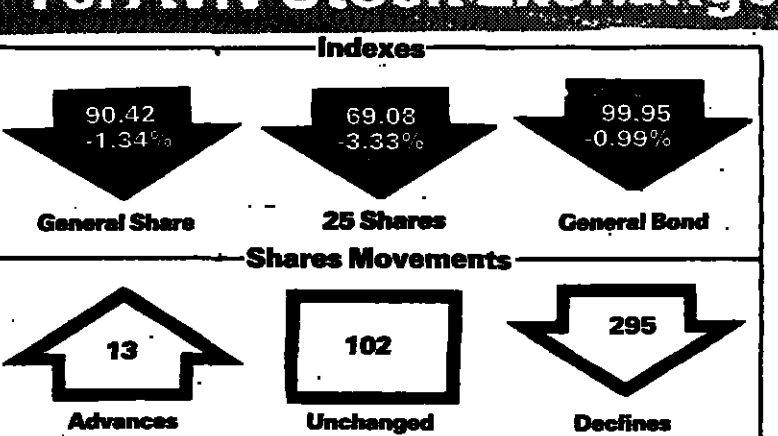
Harmoni said the insurance fund had at its disposal between \$13 mil-

lion and \$16m. each year. Last year, it allocated \$10 million to farmers (Judy Maltz)

IDB N.Y. net up

Israel Discount Bank of New York, a wholly owned subsidiary of Israel Discount Bank, said yesterday that it had a net profit of \$15.1 million for 1987, 23 percent up on 1986's \$12.2m.

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange



Selected Prices				
Name	Price	Volume	NIS	% change
Commercial Banks				
(not part of arrangement)				
CB	17250	31	-3.0	
Maritime 0.1	820	217	-4.7	
General non-arr.	12255	219	-10.0	
FBI	5643	4563	-10.0	
Commercial Banks				
(part of arrangement)				
CB	10450	505	-	
Leion 0.1	77700	40	-	
Discount	139480	375	-	
Mizrahi	42586	206	-	
Al-Hamra	2425	10	-	
General A	180400	107	-0.3	
Leumi 100.0	48710	1228	-	
Fin. Trade	59480	2	-0.7	
Mortgage Banks & Finance				
Leumi Mort. r	6210	181	-10.0	
Dev. Mort.	1800	157	-7.2	
Bank Leumi	2761	1235	-10.0	
First Int'l Mort.	8220	216	-4.6	
General Mort.	18270	474	-10.0	
Leumi Ind.	49770	1228	-4.7	
Clal Lending 0.1	21350	46	-4.5	
Insurance				
Asra 0.5 r	1950	1165	-5.8	
Phoenix 0.1	488	1854	-10.0	
Haasnehmar 1.0	4485	-	-5.0	
Leumi Ind.	920	52	-1.0	
Sahar 1.0	288	300	-1.7	
Industrials				
Interstate 1.0	648	1800	-7.7	
Bank Leumi	500	1027	-10.1	
Crystal	740	1808	-3.8	
Supernol 0.1	511	-	-10.0	
Leumi 1.0	728	820	-4.0	
Don Holdco 1.0	6075	158	-10.0	
Yarden Hotel	2880	-	-8.0	
Leumi 1.0	6550	-	-5.0	
M.L.L. 1.0	6550	2303	-4.5	
Team 1.0	-	-	-	
Real Estate, Building and Agriculture				
Al-Kor	280	8823	-4.1	
Al-Kor 0.1	28180	108	-5.2	
Al-Kor 0.1	1925	30	-2.5	
Dankner	4747	180	-1.0	
J.E.C.	224	18000	-3.4	
Surfact	2200	212	-6.8	
Baykade 0.1	14650	366	-1.7	
Asra Prop.	237	14150	-8.9	
Mehadrin	4640	1040	-2.8	
Hadrin Prop.	1330	2000	-3.5	
Industrials				
Dubai	2549	600	-7.3	
Tempo 1.0	2670	80	-4.2	
Surfact	12560	80	-4.2	
Asra	218	3005	-4.8	
Adger	7850	196	-8.4	
Adger Ind.	887	11245	-10.0	
Oil Exploration				
Leumi 1.0	18802	183	-3.4	
J.O.E.L.	275	12843	-	
Investment Companies				
Wellson 1 r	11620	-	-	
Hopelvit Int.	561	13721	-	
Mizrahi Invest.	23500	37	-5.0	
Yotn	2153	1097	-	
Parma 0.1	5679	50	-1.0	
Phylon	8357	852	-2.2	
Avnet	74	18235	-3.4	
Investment Companies				
Wellson 1 r	11620	-	-	
Hopelvit Int.	561	13721	-	
Mizrahi Invest.	23500	37	-5.0	
Yotn	2153	1097	-	
Parma 0.1	5679	50	-1.0	
Phylon	8357	852	-2.2	
Avnet	74	18235	-3.4	

Zeon Hold. 1	720	2886	-4.8			
	3344	-	-5.0			
Oil Exploration						
				18902	183	-3.4
				J.O.E.L.	275	12843
25 Shares						
Morning						
				Price	Volume	
				NIS	AUS	
Name				4820	2576	
First Internat'l				1445	19025	
Haasneh I				319	5736	
Cal Trading				788	3007	
Supernol B				1703	4633	
Dankner				23675	128	
Asra Ind. 1.0				730	15076	
Asurim				2552	90	
Prop. & Building				525	223	
L.D.C. I				943	481	
Cal R-Estate				481	2233	
Ella				3038	887	
Polgat B				1877	3421	
Leumi Ind. 1.0				650	9533	
Eron				6020	1108	
Teva				1877	3421	
Leumi Ind. 1.0				650	9533	
Petrochem				206897	22	
AIPM				3555	163	
Central Trade				1645	30872	
Cal Industries				572	672	
Gen Develop.				694	4252	
Elern				2343	359	
Elern Corp.				157	4248	
Elern Invest				287	5329	
Cal 1.0						

Statistics

Stock Indices

Stock Indices

General Share (last argmt.)	72.59	-3.92
Non-argmt.	68.81	-5.94
Arrangement Banks	103.03	-0.01
Mortgage Banks	67.47	-4.87
Financial Inst.	56.43	-0.87
Insurance	68.85	-4.55
Commerce & Services	67.47	-4.77
Real Estate & Agric.	71.78	-3.63
Industrials	72.52	-3.88
Food & Tobacco	74.38	-4.36
Textiles	74.38	-2.94
Metals	68.58	-2.94
Electrics	74.38	-3.77
Chemicals	74.30	-3.62
Industrial Invest.	67.73	-3.82
Investment Cos.	70.41	-2.00
Oil Exploration	74.40	-1.51
Preferred List	77.74	-2.57

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A sorry spectacle

CAUGHT flatfooted by the spontaneous popular uprising in the occupied territories, the PLO is now set to hurl a ship at the "Zionist entity."

Flying the Greek flag, and renamed *Al Awda*, or The Return, the ship is to carry 100-odd PLO operatives, supporters and people exiled from the territories, to Israel's shores. Accompanied by a large contingent of newsmen these worthies are expected to help turn the attempted replay of the old saga of the ship *Exodus* into a grand public relations exercise on behalf of the oppressed Palestinian People and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

The analogy with the Eretz Yisrael-bound wartime and post-war Jewish refugee vessels is deliberate, and it is obscene. It should take no great *hasbara* effort on Israel's part to blow this latest PLO propaganda gimmick out of the water, even without turning the vessel if or when it tries to cross into Israeli territorial waters.

It would, however, require that the government make it clear that such security measures as it takes, including deportations, are motivated by a single legitimate purpose: to maintain law and order in the occupied territories pending the start of peace negotiations, if need be under an international umbrella, and within the framework of Resolution 242, in which Israel will not seek wholesale annexation.

The chances of any such authoritative statement coming out of Jerusalem these days must, however, be counted slimmer than slim. The operative Israeli argument is generally understood to be that it is Israel's right, under the Camp David autonomy scheme, to insist on retaining every square inch of occupied territory.

It is this very argument which lends an air of credence to the PLO's current propaganda line, which is aimed at diverting attention from the monomaniac line of the Palestinian Covenant. The issue between the Palestinians and Israel, the PLO "mainstream" now contends, is not Israel's existence, nor even its security, but rather Israel's denial to the Palestinians of the right to a piece of land which they can call their own, and in which they will not be in exile. That is what the launching of The Return is meant to symbolize.

The prime minister, however, seems unperturbed. Convinced that the Palestinians' true homeland is Jordan, he appears to believe that the main problem is the Palestinians' failure to recognize so obvious a fact. The world at large is, of course, afflicted by a similar moral blindness, refusing to believe that, in the present Israeli-Palestinian contest, it is still the Israelis who are the victims.

A cure may nevertheless be ready at hand, if only the Jewish state takes a leaf from the PLO's book of propaganda theatrics. Let, for example, an Israeli ship carrying family members of some of the hundreds of Israeli victims of PLO terrorism meet The Return in midsea, with a press contingent of its own. The PLO's limelight will promptly be stolen, if only in part. True, the recent trip to the U.S. of such bereaved family members was less than an overwhelming success. But this time, with better organization, the same gimmick, it is argued, will lead to a wider acknowledgement of the justice of Israel's, meaning the Likud's, cause.

It is this type of spectacle which the Prime Minister's Office is reportedly planning to stage, in the belief that "disturbances" of the past two months in the territories can be passed off as merely a variety of the familiar PLO terrorism. But perhaps we should count ourselves lucky that the media initiative will not, this time, be left entirely to the PLO, nor the military response entirely to the military.

A question of safety

MORE than a few Israelis must have been started to learn that under a regulation signed by the transport minister, Haim Corfu, as far back last summer, 1988 car models with engines of over 1750 c.c. must be equipped with air-conditioners. From 1989 on the same requirement will apply to all new cars with at least 1500 c.c. The reason given for this new regulation is that drivers of non air-conditioned cars are overly prone to accidents during Israel's long, hot and humid summer months.

Sound logic, this. But then what about rear seat-belts, especially for children? Many new cars now have them, but not all, and they are far more valuable in preventing, not accidents, it is true, but surely injuries and deaths on the roads. And they are far less expensive than air-conditioners.

Last week, a bill to make the wearing of rear seat-belts compulsory for children received an unopposed second reading in the British House of Commons. No similar bill is reported on its way to the Knesset agenda, nor is Mr. Corfu known to be even considering such a measure. Why not?

GAZA BOY

(Continued from Page One)

in Shifa hospital with a cast on his arm and large black bruises covering his back.

Iyad Akal died about 12:10 a.m. Monday morning, according to the IDF and the family. Shortly after that, his body was spirited out of the hospital by the family and taken to the refugee camp, where he was buried Monday morning during a funeral demonstration of 3,000 people, the sister said.

The crowd confronted army troops, who fired at the legs of protesters after failing to disperse them with shots in the air. A 15-year old boy and a 12-year old girl were injured by the gunfire, the army said, and were admitted to Ahi Hospital in Gaza city.

Unrwa director Bernard Mills said UN workers in Bourj camp had told him that IDF soldiers entered the camp, detained Akal and beat him to death.

"I have drawn attention to something that is seriously wrong and that's it," said Mills, who refused to comment further on the incident.

"The allegations had no basis in reality," an army spokesman said. Military sources charged that the family deliberately prevented an autopsy so that the "IDF would not be able to check for the real cause of death."

Reports of the beating in Bourj were an attempt to "ride on the coattails" of the reports of a beating

death from the day before, the army added.

The army said that it had received no hospital report from Shifa on the circumstances surrounding Akal's death and that it considered the case closed and the allegations of beating unfounded.

Shifa Hospital nurse Abdel Wahad, who attended Iyad Akal when he was admitted to the hospital late Sunday afternoon, told The Post that he had been "beaten by the Jewish army," and was diagnosed as suffering from "massive trauma all over his body and a pulmonary embolism."

A pulmonary embolism is a condition where an air bubble or lump of fat enters the lungs and stops breathing, a condition that in rare cases can result from a bone fracture.

Regarding the circumstances surrounding Sunday's death of the Deir al-Balah youth, Rami al-Aklouk, the army said that the autopsy performed yesterday at the Institute for Forensic Medicine at Abu Kabir showed the death was not caused by a beating. The family had admitted the boy suffered from a brain hemorrhage a year ago, the army said.

Staff at East Jerusalem's al-Mokassed hospital, where al-Aklouk was pronounced dead, said yesterday that the boy's body was taken by the IDF to Abu Kabir for an autopsy, despite the objections of the family, who insisted that soldiers beat him on the head.

Israel's army in the territories

The limits of power

Shlomo Avineri

ISRAEL has the strongest and best-trained army in the Middle East. But this army, with all its might, finds it extremely difficult to control the Palestinian population in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In 1967, the Israeli Army needed fewer than five days to gain control over the West Bank and Gaza. In 1987-88, this same army — much stronger — cannot restore law and order when faced with stone-throwing turbulent youths.

And in trying to pacify 1.2 million Palestinians in the territories, the army, whatever it does, entangles Israel in a web of contradictions. When it used fire-power, and kills demonstrators, it fails in its mission; when it refrains from shooting, and reverts to a policy of beatings, it is transformed from a glorious army into an angry, and brutalized, police force.

Because Israel is now learning, the hard way, a very simple truth, which should have been known to us from the days of confronting the British Army in Palestine in 1945-47: an army can beat an army, but an army cannot beat a people. Israel is learning that power has limits. Iron can smash iron, it cannot smash an unarmed fist.

It is a truth which historians and literary men and women have known for a long time. It is, how-

er, a truth which military men and politicians (and too many of Israel's politicians are former military men) appear not to grasp. The military mind-set can calculate the number of guns, tanks, airplanes and missiles; what cannot be counted — like a people's will — just does not appear in its quantified map of the world.

"An army can beat an army, but an army cannot beat a people."

DURING the past 40 years, Israel has proven that it can defeat any combination of Arab armies. It proved that even from inferior borders, 10 miles from Tel Aviv and Netanya, it can reach the Jordan and the Suez Canal within less than a week. Israel indeed can be defended within pre-1967 borders — the Six Day War proved that. What is much more difficult is to defend

Israel can only lose in Exodus play for media

Robert Rosenberg

AT THE heart of a lot of good news stories — which are not necessarily the same as happy stories — is irony, as Israel is going to find out in a few days when the *Exodus 2* sets sail from Greece.

The *Exodus 2* will be loaded to the gunwales with a cargo of irony. First of all, there's the basic irony of the Palestinians, who for years have been claiming they are the Jews of the Middle East — homeless, persecuted, upwardly mobile through education — taking a page out of Israel's own history.

But part of that irony has been that until now they've been taking a page out of Ze'ev Jabotinsky's version of the historical imperative — the all or nothing approach — and it's been an unconscious strategy and an unconscious tactic, considering the PLO's claims to having only the best interests of the Palestinians in mind.

The PLO could have come up with the *Exodus 2* idea 17 years ago when — and here's another irony — an Israeli named Haim Hanegbi (who nowadays is the parliamentary spokesman for the Progressive List for Peace, the party that most fervently advocates the two-state solution) was running a magazine called *Matzpen* which featured a small satirical item about a Palestinian *Exodus*.

IRONY can also be perceived in comparing the Palestinian *Exodus* to the original *Exodus*.

The PLO figured that it would be enough to put the ship to sea with the name *Exodus* on the bow, and some deported dignitaries on board. But the Israelis can counter that by comparing the conditions on board the original *Exodus* with the conditions on board *Exodus 2*.

There weren't a dozen TV crews on board the original *Exodus*, though there were a few newsmen, for after all, once upon a time — and here's one of the ironies — Israelis

knew how to produce a good story and knew that it wouldn't hurt if there was someone around to tell it.

And the people on board the original *Exodus* weren't exactly floating around the eastern Mediterranean for the gimmick of the story.

Unfortunately, subtly comparing who exactly was on board the Jewish ship and who exactly is on the Palestinian ship is not Israel's strong suit. For the essential humor that makes all irony work, either as comedy or tragedy, is not exactly the strong point of most Israeli politicians.

And even if they had the sense of humor required, and made available to the networks, for whom the entire exercise has been conceived, the original *Exodus* footage of skin and bones people dressed in rags who filled the original *Exodus* to the gunwales, it's likely that the networks would choose the Otto Preminger version of the Jewish *Exodus*, with Paul Newman at the helm, to explain what all the ruckus is about. And that, of course, is another irony in this story.

IN ANY case, the name *Exodus* may be full of irony, but there's also surprise involved.

Israelis love to be surprised. They were surprised by the victory in 1967, and then surprised that the possession of the territories didn't lead to peace. They were surprised by the Yom Kippur War, and then surprised when their military victory did not translate into a political victory.

They were surprised by Menachem Begin's election and Anwar Sadat's visit, they were surprised that the IDF went further than 40 kilometers and surprised that Lebanon turned into mud. They were surprised by the rioting in the terri-

tories and now they're going to be surprised by the good ship *Exodus 2*.

Assuming the Israeli government follows true to form, the government will be surprised — by the appearance of the ship on the radar scopes, by the media interest in the story, and by the ensuing row when Israel refuses to allow the ship to land.

They'll be surprised when the networks carry the story and make Israel look foolish, just like it looks foolish when 100 cops are shown chasing after 20 stone-throwers.

The Israelis will be surprised when they are compared to the British, who also didn't let the *Exodus* land at Haifa.

The only way the *Exodus 2* story can turn out well for Israel, and maybe even for the Palestinians, is if the entire Israeli cabinet sails out to meet the Palestinian ship with an invitation for peace talks. That's about as likely as a typhoon sweeping through the eastern Mediterranean.

The ironic thing in this aspect of the story is that it would be much easier for the Israelis to let the ship land at Haifa, and usher the various people on board to a waiting room, where someone, Abba Eban or Aharon Yariv come to mind, explains to both the TV cameras as well as the Palestinians, the historic context of both ships.

But that won't happen, for the same reason that the army hasn't yet figured out that sometimes it's easier to offer a cup of coffee to the leader of a riot about to break out, than it is to chase after that leader after the rioting has begun.

So get ready for an interesting story. The PLO has learned enough about the media to know that the longer they can keep that boat on the water, the longer the story will be on the air.

Debbie Ledean, of the U.S.-based *Jewish Standard* against Robert Arnoux of the paper *Le Meridional* which appears in Marseille. Following an IDF-sponsored tour of Gaza, Ledean said, Arnoux stopped to talk with a group of Arab youths. She said the youths subsequently donned keffiyas and set up a roadblock, while Arnoux photographed the developments. An IDF force which arrived at the scene had to disperse the youths with tear gas.

Ledeon said that when Arnoux returned to the car in which she was travelling along with another journalist, he told his colleagues that "this is the only way to work. I've been here for 10 days, and haven't seen a thing. Now I have a story."

An IDF reserve captain, Meir Amor, 33, was yesterday court-martialed and sentenced to 21 days in prison for refusing to serve in the territories. Amor, an activist of the Sphardic "Eastern Front" movement, became the fourth soldier to be jailed for refusing to serve in the territories since the Palestinian protests began two months ago, according to the Yesh Gvul movement.

WEST BANK

closure were intended to seal off areas from which stones had been thrown by rioters.

Troops also broke up protests in Halhoul and the Kalandia refugee camp. The Palestine Press Service in East Jerusalem reported protests in Ramallah and Deir Amar, where it said three persons were wounded by gunfire.

Close to 200,000 persons in 10 Arab communities remained under curfew, including residents of Nablus, the largest West Bank city, and the inhabitants of Tulkarm and Kalkilya. A shipment of food from the Israeli Arab village of Taibe was allowed into Tulkarm, and MK Tawfik Toubi (DFPE) was permitted to visit mayor Hilmi Hanoun.

Menachem Shalev adds: An American journalist yesterday lodged a complaint with the IDF Spokesman and the Government Press Office against a French reporter who allegedly incited local youths in Gaza to set up roadblocks and to place burning tires on the road.

The complaint was lodged by

Dry Bones



READERS' LETTERS

CONFEDERATE SPONSORSHIP

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — At least one thing can be said for the recent "disturbances" in the territories: once again there is an active search for new solutions to the seemingly intractable problem. Among the many proposals offered in the past was that of condominium for the West Bank. Perhaps its weakness lay in the fact that it only attacked one aspect of the regional problem, leaving the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights to continue to fester.

I would suggest a regional tetrarchy, independent but beholden to no one, though sponsored in a confederative effort by Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and Syria, while being underpinned by a joint advocacy of the United States and the Soviet Union. Such a regional entity would encompass the Arab-populated West Bank, the Israeli settlement complex there, Gaza, and the Druse-populated part of the Golan. Totally demilitarized, the area would be policed by a regional force operating in four part units.

A regional assembly would determine overall policy within the framework, while district councils would deal with their own local agenda under the provisions of full autonomy. These bodies would be democratically elected after a transitional period of formation under the aegis of representatives appointed by the district leadership. Dual citizenship with its rights and privileges would be made available

from the sponsoring states to the inhabitants of the respective areas. Regional currency and postage as well as free-trade-zone agreements with the sponsoring states would be part of an economic development plan geared to improving the agricultural and industrial infrastructure.

The redevelopment of existing refugee camps would be one of the region's first action programmes. Such a massive project would be funded by contributions from sponsoring states, the World Bank, world Jewry and a world Arab appeal.

Arabic and Hebrew would be recognized as official languages. A watchdog executive formed by the sponsoring states with background participation of the Superpowers would guide and guard the course of effectuation.

The problems and risks of this proposal (outlined here in abbreviated form) are obvious, including the necessity of proper security modifications for Israel. The inherent potentialities should, however, be duly emphasized: peaceful interdependence of a quasi-independent region with the states around it; fullest cultural autonomy; an economic upswing of many dimensions for all concerned; a re-order in the balance of American and Soviet relations with the Arab world.

A Mideast glasnost would do wonders all around.
NAFTALI RIVKAV
Ramat Gan (New York).

WHERE ARE THE GOOD JEWS?

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — As someone who was raised on the refrain "Where were the good Germans when all this happened?" today I pose the question: "Where are the good Jews?"

I read in various newspapers about Yitzhak Rabin ordering "beatings"; of Israeli soldiers breaking the hands of Palestinians with sticks; of some 200 Palestinians being treated for fractures in three days; of psychologists being sent in to talk to the Israeli soldiers who are administering the beatings (I try to imagine what they could be saying); most of all of government ministers and others who worry about the bad press Israel is getting, but pay little or no attention to the policy itself.

Speaking as a Jew, as a long-time friend of Israel, as someone who has travelled widely in the country, as someone who has dear dear friends in Israel, I am appalled.

It goes without saying that there are a great many rights on Israel's side in this confrontation, which traces its roots back to the Arab refusal to recognize the UN creation of a Jewish state alongside a Palestinian state in 1948, and beyond. But if official Israeli policy has been reduced to ordering soldiers to break the hands of stone throwers — without the elementary protection of accusations, trials, verdicts, judgments — than Israel has lost its way. Not too long ago, Israeli soldiers watched Christian militiamen enter Palestinian camps in Beirut, and listened to the sounds of an atrocity. Now Israeli soldiers are taking part in an atrocity. Your current policies, and the people who order them, are outrageous, and poverty stricken.

So where are the good Jews?
ROBERT LITTELL
Martel, France.

SUPPORT FROM GERMANY

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — This is to express my solidarity with your government's policy in the occupied territories since the outbreak of violence in December of last year. I feel ashamed of some of our politicians who seem to give "advice" to your government which, were Israel to take it, could easily lead to its doom.

In Germany, we have been shown scenes of violence from Israel almost every day and the TV commentators usually suggest that the Israeli army is over-reacting and be-

having brutally against a defenceless population trying to liberate itself from the yoke of the occupying power.

Violence naturally engenders violence. However, it should be made clear that the Arabs started it. As long as the Palestinians deny Israel's right to exist and the Jews' right to live in this country, their lot will be humiliation. Any real change has to start in the minds of the Palestinians.

WILTRUD BOSL
Munich, Germany.

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